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# THE TIMES

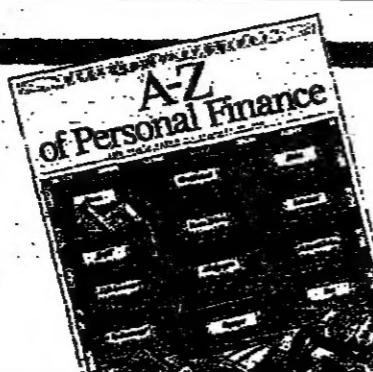
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No. 65,487

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

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Times**

Win £10,000  
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money guide



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our award-winning  
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New case denounced as vendetta

## Defiant Kevin Maxwell faces second trial

By JON ASHWORTH AND FRANCES GIBB

KEVIN MAXWELL faced the prospect of another long trial yesterday when the Serious Fraud Office announced that it was pressing ahead with further charges against him.

The decision came seven days after his acquittal on charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners of shares worth £122 million, and he immediately denounced it as "political". Mr Maxwell's barrister described it as an outrage, and said he would seek to have the case thrown out.

No further action will be taken against Mr Maxwell's elder brother, Ian, but Larry Trachtenberg, who was acquitted with the brothers last week after an eight-month hearing, will be put on trial again. Mr Maxwell and Mr Trachtenberg will be joined in the dock by Albert Fuller, former head of the Maxwell treasury department, and Michael Stoney, a former Maxwell company director.

The SFO's decision to proceed was announced in the Old Bailey courtroom used for the previous hearing and afterwards. Kevin Maxwell said: "I believe I am the victim of a political decision taken by politicians in the run-up to a general election. I do not think the interests of justice will be served by a second trial."

He was supported by his wife Pandora, who accused the SFO of running a vendetta against him. She branded the decision "the last lash of the dragon's tail", and called for a public protest. "I am hoping the public will object to the spending of another £10 million when they could be putting the Newbury bypass underground for that much."

The Attorney General denied the claims of political

motivation, however, saying the decision was taken by the director of the Serious Fraud Office in consultation with counsel and the Government's law officers. Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, Conservative chairman of the Commons home affairs select committee, described the suggestion as arrant nonsense. He said the Attorney General would have approved the prosecution, but the decision would have been taken purely on legal grounds.

The decision to continue with the case was made just before yesterday morning's court hearing. Richard Lissack, for the prosecution, said it had been taken at the last minute after "palinstaking" reflection, but there were ill-tempered exchanges in court as defence counsel complained that they had been left no time to consider their response.

Alun Jones, QC, for Kevin Maxwell, described the continued prosecution as oppressive and "nothing less than an outrage". He argued that the complexity of the case meant that a second trial might not start until next January and could last nine months, plac-



Maxwell: "I am victim of political decision"

The investigation into the collapse of the late Robert Maxwell's empire cost some £11 million and the final bill of the first trial has been estimated at up to £50 million. But only ten original counts were considered at that trial in Confirmed on page 2, col 6

Melvyn Markus, page 26

## Britain freezes in Arctic winds

By STEPHEN FARRELL

SUB-ZERO temperatures and Arctic winds caused hundreds of accidents and closed roads across the country yesterday, and are set to disrupt the weekend's sporting fixtures.

Weather centres reported

temperatures of -6C (21.2F) and 45mph winds, causing a wind chill factor of -17C (1.4F). The worst-affected areas were south Wales and northern England, where thousands of homes were hit by power cuts, and hundreds of accidents occurred where snow had settled on patches of black ice.

In the Rhymney Valley, emergency soup kitchens were set up and helicopters flew mobile generators into parts of Mid-Glamorgan and Gwent. Welsh Water was forced to deliver bottled supplies to villages near Merthyr Tydfil after reservoir pumps failed. "These have been freak conditions," a spokesman said.

In Sussex, a 26-year-old woman died when the car she was travelling in skidded on ice at Pyecombe, near Haywards Heath, and crashed into a garage forecourt, destroying several petrol pumps.

The London Weather Centre said worse weather is on the way. "We are expecting the same situation we had on New Year's Eve, when rain froze as it hit the ground."

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The new Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, in the London Cope, which was made for Bishop Gerald Ellison and depicts several London churches, during his enthronement at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday. Page 10

## Forte facing Footsie axe

Forte, the food and hotels group taken over by Granada, faces the ignominy of being replaced in the FT-SE index of the leading 100 companies next week by Mercury Asset Management.

The fund management company helped to seal Forte's fate by publicly accepting the £3.8 billion Granada bid. Page 25

**Inmates' payout**  
Seven prisoners who claimed they were left mentally traumatised by the Strangeways jail riots six years ago have received out-of-court cash settlements of almost £5,000 each from the Home Office. Page 3

## Duchess sued over £100,000 loan

By BILL FROST

THE Duchess of York faced fresh embarrassment over her finances yesterday as a former friend issued a High Court writ demanding that she repay a £100,000 loan.

Lily Rathan Mahani, an Indian-born society hostess, is said to have lent the Duchess the money for a holiday in France two years ago. She wants the money returned with interest. It is thought to be the first time a member of the Royal Family has been faced with a High Court hearing over an alleged debt.

The writ was filed on Thursday while the Duchess, who is thought to be up to £3 million in debt, was lunching at a London restaurant.

Mrs Mahani, 38, claimed

that she lent the Duchess the money in the summer of 1994 so that she could take a six-week break on the Côte d'Azur with her daughters, Princess

Beatrix and Princess Eugenie, some of her staff and a sherpa mountain guide she met in the Himalayas. The Duchess is said to have repaid only £5,000.

Last week, when news of the Duchess's debts was made public, Buckingham Palace made plain that the Queen would no longer pay her daughter-in-law's creditors. However, the Duchess apparently has clinched a lucrative deal with Ray Chambers, an American businessman, on marketing Budgie the Helicopter, the cartoon character she created.

In addition, she has received a £650,000 offer from the CBS TV network in the United States to host a chat show. A

source close to the Duchess indicated last night, however, that she was "highly unlikely to renounce herself as a television performer now or at any time".

The writ, issued at 3.1pm on Thursday against the Duchess, of Kingsbourne House, Wentworth, Surrey, claims that Mrs Mahani lent the Duchess £100,000, in or about August 1994, on terms that the loan would be repaid on demand or within a reasonable period. It claims that repayment was demanded in late February last year.

The writ says that, in part payment, the Duchess gave a cheque, dated March 2 last year, for £5,000 and the bal-

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IAN CHOSE THE LIGHTS OUT OPTION ON VIRGIN UPPER CLASS BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, HAD DRUNK TOO MANY COFFEES.

Upper Class We offer a sleep-suit, duvet, pillow, lights out in the cabin, and decaffeinated coffee. Call 01293 747 500 or see your travel agent. virgin atlantic



04

## CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

## Benedict Nightingale

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creakier gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation. With Anna Carteret, David Yelland, Penny Downie and (especially) a Wilde-looking Martin Shaw seamlessly in control, there is humanity, humour and timely truth in the tale of the rising politician threatened both by the appearance of the indiscreet letter he wrote in his youth and by his wife's unforgiving morality.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinees: Wed and Sat, 3pm. £5.

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London, as well as several in New York? Why bother at all with J.B. Priestley's tale of a respectable family's destruction of an innocent girl? Because Stephen Daldry's superbly imaginative direction and Ian MacNeil's wonderfully evocative set transform it into a grand, gripping denunciation of the 20th-century's deadliest sins.

Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5025). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; matinees: Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 5pm.

## Clive Davis

**JACKY TERRASSON** His eponymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995. A puissant virtuoso of Franco-American origin, he has the potential to become the most versatile and accomplished pianist since the controversial Keith Jarrett. Muscular yet poetic, he can slip into a funky backbeat on *I Love Paris*, sprinkle Debussy-esque harmonies on *Hommage à Lili Boulanger* and leap into quicksilver Bud Powell mode at a moment's notice.

Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044), Thur Feb 1, 9pm.

**BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS** Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets. Do not miss her final week. Wally Harper's piano arrangements are as sumptuous as a full orchestra's, and Cook's subtle vocals lift even the more obscure numbers firmly into the major league. A favourite at the Algonquin and other Manhattan salons, the Cole Porter devotee Steve Ross comes to town with another bulging sack of vintage songs. He will be followed on-stage, later in the evening, by Patricia Hodge and Sheridan Morley, presenting their tribute to Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan.

Cook, Cafe Royal, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9000), tonight, Tues to Sat, 9.15pm.

**Ross**: Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273).

Mon 29 to Sat 24 Feb, 9.15pm;

(Hodge and Morley, 11.15pm).



Humanity and humour: Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns' grand biblical opera is all gain. Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elija Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather saucy Bacchanale — not to mention "Softly awakes my heart" — all add up to a thumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatzianou sings the tempress; Jose Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacky Terrasson conducts. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. £5.

**THE MAGIC FLUTE** There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality, and the English National Opera fields a strong team for the latest revival of Nicholas Hytner's first staging. Alexander Sander's stylish conducting is the perfect springboard for exceptional singing from Janice Watson and Ian Bostridge as the very juvenile leads. Peter Snipp as the birdcatcher and John Connolly as — in George Bernard Shaw's words — the voice of God. All this, and you can hear the words too.

Coiffure, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. £5.

**DAVID SINCLAIR** Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote *The Cult of Ray*, his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock.

SFX, Dublin (00353 284 1747), Jan 27. £10.50.

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**RODNEY MILNES** There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year programme, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes

of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns' grand biblical opera is all gain. Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elija Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather saucy Bacchanale — not to mention "Softly awakes my heart" — all add up to a thumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatzianou sings the tempress; Jose Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacky Terrasson conducts. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. £5.

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Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammies.

Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.



A chorus of approval: grandmother Melissa Etheridge

**MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE** In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grand-standing style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star. Lionised for her own songwriting by Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman, she dishes out big, strong themes and sweeping choruses splashed with primary emotional colours. Her current album, *Your Little Secret*, has been somewhat eclipsed by a new wave of solo American stars which includes support act

**SPRING COLLECTION** A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days. There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows and Siobhan Davies alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The scheduling allows time to take in all six programmes for a unique cross-section of dance activity.

The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Fri 2, 2.30pm, Sat 3, 1pm, Sun 4, 1.30pm; Purcell Room, Sat 3, 3.30pm, and Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sat 3, 7.45pm, Sun 4, 3pm, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm.

**SWAN DANCE '96** A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of *Crime Fiction* by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adelio (Wed 7), Alena Collins (Wed 14), and the black company RJC in *Captured* (Fri 23) and the *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Tours bring four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (March 26-30). Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe (01494 512000), 8pm; matinees: Feb 28, March 2 and 30, 2.30pm, March 19 and 27, 2pm.

**MARXIST AND MARVEL** Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote *The Cult of Ray*, his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock.

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**PARIS DOUBLE** The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flattens its status: over the years it has had its ups and downs but also its sloppiness side. Let's hope for the former as Semyon Bychkov, its youngish and personable music director, steers it through Mahler's

unmistakably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's *Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs*. It is an opera based on music for Prospero's Books, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Giletti join the concert-blasting Michael Nyman Band.

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm.

**JOHN PERCIVAL**

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Strangeways seven are 'paid off'

# Prisoners stressed by jail riot receive £5,000 settlements

By KATE ALDERSON

SEVEN prisoners claiming to have been mentally traumatised by the Strangeways jail riots six years ago have reached out-of-court settlements with the Home Office of almost £5,000 each.

In what are believed to be the first cases of their kind, the seven former inmates launched claims for damages alleging they suffered post-traumatic stress disorder. A Prison Service spokesman confirmed yesterday that all seven claims had been settled.

However, the Home Office has not accepted liability and the awards have been made because of the huge cost to the taxpayer of taking the cases to court. A spokesman said: "After counsel's advice and careful consideration it was decided to settle the cases on the grounds of costs. The stress has not been proved."

The Prison Service spokesman said that an ex-gratia payment had also been made to a prison officer, but he could not reveal details.

The riot at the Manchester jail, which began in April 1990, lasted for 25 days and resulted in the death of one prison officer. Another prison officer received injuries that may have contributed to his

death. Six prisoners were charged with murder and ten with rioting.

Politicians yesterday condemned the Home Office decision to settle. Prison officers said it was an insult to those who worked in Strangeways during the riot who have received no compensation.

Bob Lister, the Labour MP whose Manchester Central constituency includes Strangeways, said: "My heart goes out to all of them. The Home Office has not even rewarded them with a paltry medal, let alone thousands in compensation."

An official of the Prison Officer's Association (POA) said the Home Office payments could prompt other prisoners to "jump on the bandwagon" and for prisons' staff to reconsider launching actions. However, the Home Office said claims for damage had to be lodged within three years of any incident.

Terence Jeggo, 27, from Manchester, is a former inmate who has received £4,500 over his claim that he suffered a personality change during the riots. He alleged the Prison Service breached its duty of care to him as a prisoner and that the prison authorities

should have known that a riot was imminent and taken steps to prevent it.

Jeggo, in Strangeways for stabbing a man, was involved in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue two prisoners from a burning cell at the height of the riot. He claimed he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder as a result. His case was due to go before a 12-week hearing at Manchester High Court.

Trevor Ward, a solicitor acting for Jeggo, said: "He suffered anxiety and depression which led to the breakdown of a long-term relationship with the mother of his children." Mr Ward described the payment as reasonable, adding there was evidence that Jeggo suffered psychological trauma.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, said damages claims were getting out of hand. "As with claims by IRA terrorists, wives of appalling criminals and other absurd cases that have recently been emerging, most people will be extremely irritated by this."

Dawn Brumley, of Justice For Victims, described the payments as a joke. "They say they are suffering stress caused by the riot, but what about the stress and pain caused to the victims and families of victims by their actions?"

John Sutcliffe, assistant secretary of the POA, said his members had made claims to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board after riots at eight prisons, including Strangeways, in 1990. Sixty-five claims were made to the board. Forty related to physical injuries, all of which had been settled, and 25 involved compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, three of which were outstanding. Payments to officers for stress range from £2,500 to £7,500.



Rioting prisoners took to the roof during the disturbance at Strangeways in the spring of 1990

## Rock 'n' roll legend to sue theatre over his life story

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE world premiere of a play about Jerry Lee Lewis at a provincial theatre is at the centre of a legal dispute with the flamboyant musician's family.

*Whole Lotta Shakin'*, due to open at the Belgrave Theatre, Coventry, on Tuesday, But Lewis, the six-times married pioneer of rock-and-roll, has objected to the theatre's claims that the play had received his family's blessing.

The "warts and all" story was written by Todd Rissau, who spent several months in Memphis, where the singer lives, talking to relatives and friends. It has been tipped for a West End run.

Lewis, 59, whose hits included *Great Balls of Fire*, has spent most of his career in controversy. His 1958 tour of Britain was disrupted by protests against his marriage to his 13-year-old cousin. He was a drug addict for more than 20 years, and was arrested for trying to drive through Elvis Presley's locked gates with a loaded gun. He has also been pursued for millions of dollars in unpaid tax.

The unauthorised musical,

which takes its name from one of the singer's biggest hits, is due to run for a month. It tells the story of his rise to fame at the age of 21 and charts how he fell from glory because of the outrage over his 13-year-old bride. At least four of his six wives will feature in the show.

David Monypenny, Lewis's lawyer, said last night: "This play is being produced without the authority of Jerry Lee Lewis. We are adamantly opposed to it and will take all steps necessary to prevent this

production opening."

Charles White, official biographer of Lewis, said: "I spoke to one of Jerry's sisters last night. She is terribly upset, as is Jerry. I have a copy of the script which is going to lawyers."

In a press release the theatre said: "The production has been developed with full co-operation of the Lewis family."

The theatre is delighted by the controversy. "We have had calls from all over the country," Fiona Williams, public relations manager, said. "We have never even hinted that Jerry Lee Lewis is involved. Our lawyers have checked the script. We have not labelled anyone or plagiarised anyone. So far we have not received any injunctions. It is true that we have not had authority from Jerry Lee Lewis. We don't need it. The show is definitely going on."

Ms Williams added: "We rather hope Jerry Lee Lewis may fly over as well as our guest-of-honour."

Not all the family objects.

Frankie Jean, one of the musician's sisters, is expected at the opening night. The show stars Billy Geraghty, who played Buddy Holly in the West End.

Jerry Lee Lewis: said to be upset by the show

## Scarborough fields mayor in bid for Bulgarian glory

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO rival soccer towns are locked in an off-the-field battle over who is to look after the Bulgarian football team when it plays in the European Championship this summer.

Apart from the civic and sporting prestige of hosting the entourage, there is also the matter of the £5 million which 5,000 Bulgarian fans are expected to spend next June when they watch Bulgaria's opening matches in Newcastle and Leeds.

On one side is Darlington, Co Durham, currently sixth in Division 3. Once the grimy birthplace of the railway industry, it now claims to be a centre for tourism. It is pitted against Scarborough, the Victorian spa town, which at present is the penultimate

side in the Football League. Until the start of this month Darlington believed it had the match in the bag. A team agent had booked rooms at a country house hotel and the rugby club had offered its ground for training.

But then Don Robinson, a Scarborough businessman who was chairman of the town's soccer club and has hotel interests in Bulgaria, stepped in with a late equaliser. Through his contacts, officials of the Bulgarian Football Union were offered an alternative venue.

John Williams, leader of Darlington council, tackled the move by offering a tour of his area next month to Bulgarian officials. Scarborough believes, however, that it scored a last-minute winner when last weekend, it

Dr Joe Riley observes a bee with the 16mm radar antenna glued to its back



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## Scientists create tiny antenna to keep eye on bees

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists have invented the world's smallest radar antenna to track bees and other low-flying insects.

The device could improve the efficiency of bee-keeping and help to combat the tsetse fly, carrier of sleeping sickness in central and southern Africa.

The antenna, which weighs three milligrams and is 16 millimetres high, is glued to the back of the bees. Field trials show the creatures can fly normally with the extra load but have some difficulty entering their hives.

Radar has already been used to monitor high-flying insects, but their ground-hugging counterparts could not be tracked because of the signals returned from plants and other objects.

With the aid of a £65,000 grant from the Overseas Development Administration, Dr Riley and his colleagues at the radar unit of the Natural Resources Institute at Merton, Hereford and Worcester, devised the antenna, technically known as a harmonic generating tag, to get round this problem.

"The tag reflects a harmonic of the radar signals which can be detected even against strong competing echoes from the ground," he said. "The insects are then tracked by a radar scanner with two dishes, one to send the signal out and one to receive it."

The key to the device's tiny

size is its ability to pick up the operating power it needs from the incoming signals, so no on-board battery is required.

The next step is to develop an antenna weighing no more than one milligram capable of being attached to tsetse flies, which themselves weigh only between five and 10 milligrams. Such a device could be ready for field trials next year.

Dr Riley and his team are working at the request of scientists in Zimbabwe who think the radar tag will enable them to control tsetse flies more effectively and without the environmental damage caused by insecticides.

The Zimbabweans are already using decoys to trap the bloodsucking flies. Dr Riley said: "Rods are placed in fields and covered with black cloth impregnated with the odour of an ox and also the insecticide. But it is a bit hit-and-miss. The aim is to use the radar tags to find out the insects' precise flight patterns, making it possible to site the decoy rods in places where they will catch most flies."

Bees were originally chosen simply because they provided a good model on which to test the antenna. Entomologists now think the tags could also be used to improve knowledge of the foraging and pollinating habits of bees, enabling hives to be sited more effectively and perhaps throwing light on the decline of the wild bumble bee.





**Highlands Scala plays host to the stars**

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A LOCAL picture palace in Inverness will be the unlikely setting for the world premiere of a Hollywood movie next week. A host of stars have been invited to the launch of *Loch Ness* at La Scala, "the sort of cinema where your feet stick to the carpet", as one of the organisers put it.

Among the celebrities flying in to the capital of the Highlands for Saturday's celebrations are the film's stars, Ted Danson and Joey Richardson. Others are hoping will attend include Sting, Bob Geldof, Charlton Heston, Emily Lloyd, Koo Stark, Jodie Kidd and Oasis.

*Loch Ness*, a romantic comedy set around the monster myth, is the third Hollywood film to have its premiere in Scotland in the past nine months and the Scottish Tourist Board is hoping it will give a further boost to the region. It follows on the heels of *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart*, noted for their breathtaking settings and opulent launch parties. *Loch Ness* will be altogether more modest.

The budget for the premiere is £65,000, including air fares and accommodation. By contrast, United Artists spent £1 million on the launch of *Rob Roy*.

La Scala is a twin-screen traditional picture house — with one shop, one turstile and no bar — that once doubled as a church.

Brian Beattie, a Highlands councillor, said: "You could be snobbish about the venue, but I can assure Ted, Joey and all the other bigwigs that the wee stall at the front door of La Scala sells excellent popcorn and hotdogs."

Crumbling cliff face reveals first set of dinosaur footprints in Scotland

## Dinosaur hunter stumbles on Skye's Jurassic past

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE first set of dinosaur footprints discovered in Scotland have been found at a remote beach on Skye. The fossilised tracks of the 6ft-tall carnivore were uncovered by Neil Clark, a palaeontologist and curator of the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, where they will be displayed later this year.

The tracks will have important implications for the understanding of dinosaurs in Britain. They will help scientists to assess how fast the dinosaurs moved, how big they were and how heavy.

Mr Clark, who is recovering from a broken leg, suffered last week when he was trying to remove the fossils, came across the footprints at the beginning of this month. He had taken a palaeontologist from Yale to a beach at Staffin and was showing her some pseudotracks, marks in the rock not made by dinosaurs, when he spotted the real thing. There

are about ten footprints made by two three-toed dinosaurs, one slightly bigger than the other. The prints measure 20cm to 30cm across and Mr Clark describes them as like "giant bird footprints".

He believes the tracks may be from a dinosaur called coelophysis, best known from remains found in Mexico. Mr Clark found a tall bone of a much smaller coelophysis in the same area of Skye. The tracks date to between 220 million and 170 million years ago, the Jurassic period.

Fossilised footprints have been found at several sites in England but Skye is the only place where they have been found in Scotland. A single print was discovered on the island in 1984. Mr Clark said:

"I think this is mainly because the rocks are of the right age in Skye. I found the tracks in slabs of rock which had recently broken away from the cliff face and split in two. Scotland was separated

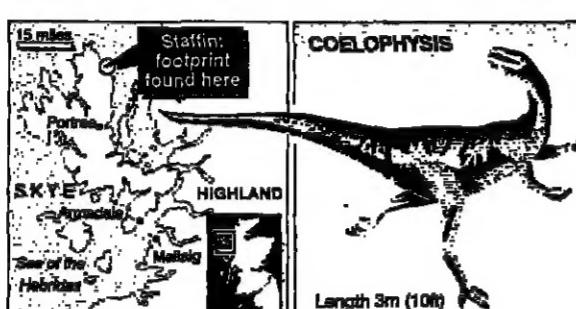
from England at the time the tracks were made and was much closer to Greenland and North America. Mr Clark thinks the dinosaurs that made the tracks may have migrated from America.

"Every little piece of the jigsaw is important," he said. "It was a very exciting discovery. We were happy enough to go back to celebrate by having a wee dram or two."

The slabs containing the footprints, weighing almost a tonne, have been removed from the site with permission from the Scottish Office, which owns the mineral rights in the area.

It was while supervising the removal that Mr Clark fell and broke his leg. He had to be flown by helicopter to hospital in Stornoway. He will be in plaster for four months, unable to walk for eight weeks, and the injury may delay the display of the footprints in the museum. Mr Clark had hoped to have them on display by March.

The accident illustrated the problems of a planned excavation of the site. "I'd like there to be a proper excavation, but we are dealing with a very high cliff face which would make excavating very difficult," Mr Clark said. "The cliff is eroding which is why these chance finds turn up and why it was important to remove them quickly before they were destroyed by the sea."



## Builders unearth Stone Age axe

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A STONE AGE axe has been dug up during building work at a girls' school in Salisbury. The eight-inch flint hand-axe, believed to date back 250,000 years, is one of the biggest found in Britain.

Excavation work is taking place for a new arts centre at the independent Godolphin

School at Milford Hill on the edge of the city. Phil Harding of Wessex Archaeology and Channel 4's *Time Team*, has been monitoring the site because hand-axes were also found there in the 19th century. He said: "We got permission to monitor the work to see if anything interesting appeared." A flint scraper was also discovered.

Dating the site is difficult, because such tools were in use for hundreds of thousands of years, but Mr Harding believes it is "not likely to be this side of 250,000 years ago". The tools would have been used for butchery, but no traces of animal bones have yet been found.

With the foundations now in, Mr Harding hopes that excavations for drains could bring further finds.



Neil Clark broke his leg while recovering the one-tonne slab that contains the fossilised footprints of the coelophysis. His impression of the beast is below



**Branson take-off is up to Gaddafi**

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
AND OLIVER AUGUST

RICHARD BRANSON was last night ready to fly to Libya to try to save his round-the-world balloon expedition if two Arab kings fail to persuade Colonel Gaddafi to allow Virgin Challenger to cross Libyan borders.

King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan, a close personal friend of Mr Branson, have intervened after the Libyan authorities rejected the application to enter their airspace.

A launch from Marrakesh in Morocco is pencilled in for Mr Branson's team, weather permitting, by the middle of next week. Libya is in the direct flight path after Algeria has been successfully traversed. But time is running out for the Branson team. Jet streams, which are essential to the project's success, will die out by mid-February.

Mr Branson said: "Without a yes from Libya we are in serious trouble. I am willing to go to Libya to see Colonel Gaddafi if it will help."

Meanwhile, Henk Brink, the Dutchman who is also attempting to become the first balloonist to circumnavigate the globe, said he would take off without the permission of unnamed governments. Having survived the collapse of the Fokker aeroplane company, which was storing his balloon, the weather is his biggest obstacle. An inch of snow fell in Holland yesterday.

## Virgin loses TV court challenge

VIRGIN Television failed yesterday in its High Court challenge to the Independent Television Commission's rejection of its bid for the fifth terrestrial channel. Virgin and two other unsuccessful bidders, New Century Television and UKTV, claimed that the ITA acted unfairly and unlawfully in awarding the licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting after the company had increased the guaranteed funding of its business plan by £100 million. The court said that the bidding rules permitted the increase. A Virgin spokesman said the group had not decided whether to appeal.

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INSIDE



**It could be you**  
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**1015**  
inside the Magazine

More than 1,100 plates removed from collections across the country

## Library thief plundered rare and precious books

BY MICHAEL HORNSBELL

A LANDSCAPE gardener with a passion for antiquarian books "yesterday admitted plundering plates from rare volumes worth up to £289,000 in a case which has forced a review of security at major libraries."

Joseph Bellwood, 43, who has been banned under the terms of his bail from entering any library, sold or swapped the precious material with fellow enthusiasts. Southwark Crown Court in London was told that he systematically robbed libraries over an 18-month period, making about £37,000 from the illustrations which he cut out with a sharp hobby knife.

The bespectacled book-worm is known to have removed 1,149 plates, illustrations and prints from irreplaceable books at a dozen libraries including the British Library, the London Library, Birmingham Central and Leeds Central. Closed-circuit television cameras, restricted

access, and closer supervision are among security measures designed to thwart similar raids in the future.

Martin Hicks, for the prosecution, said 439 plates had been located and either recovered or their eventual destination identified, amounting to about 38 per cent of the items lost. Bellwood, from Leeds, admitted 12 sample counts of theft and damaging property.

Mr Hicks told the court: "Various outlets have been traced. Cash, cheque or swap transactions took place, and from there it is suggested he has had a proven benefit of something in the order of £37,000."

He added that the charges Bellwood had admitted "represent the substantial part of the criminality on the part of the defendant, but they are not exclusive."

Bellwood admitted stealing seven prints from *The Sporting Garland* by Cecil Aldin; four colour prints from *Pictoresque Illustrations of the River Wye* by Theodore Henry Field-

ing, both belonging to the British Library; *Famous Cricketers* by Charles W Alcock; and 127 illustrations from six volumes entitled *The Holy Land* by D Roberts from the London Library; 37 colour plates from *Empire's Cricket* and *Beldam*, belonging to Leeds Central Library; and 14 colour plates from 12 *Vanity Fair* magazines belonging to Birmingham Central Library.

Mr Hicks told Judge Motta Singh, QC, that former Christie's auctioneer Anthony Payne estimated the value of the books involved at between £189,000 and £289,000.

Justin Shale, for the defence, claimed that the volumes were worth £100,000 and Bellwood's benefit £16,000. He asked for an eight week adjournment so these matters could be dealt with.

After the judge agreed to continue bail, which bars Bellwood from leaving Leeds as well as entering a library, the barrister told the court that as far as his client was concerned he "does not wish to see a library again after the problems he has experienced".

After the hearing a spokesman for the British Library said the case had led to the installation of closed-circuit cameras in the past year in areas containing antiquarian books.

The bags of people leaving the library are also checked and regular security patrols maintained to prevent the pilfering of plates.

He said: "We do regard as a top priority taking care of material in the collection so it is available to present and future users. The missing plates from our books have been recovered, thankfully."

"This is part of the nation's heritage. We are making sure it is not easy to plunder material from us in future."

Alan Bell, the London Library librarian, said: "Our security has been under review as a result of this case. Access arrangements and supervision have been tightened."



Joseph Bellwood at Southwark Crown Court, where he admitted stealing plates from antiquarian books

## Ministers to ban sale of knives to children

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND STEWART TENDER

MINISTERS are expected to ban the sale of certain types of knife to the under-16s in an effort to end the weapon-carrying culture among young teenagers.

Kitchen knives, daggers and "survival" weapons are among those most likely to be covered under new laws planned by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. The move follows the fatal stabbing of a London headmaster last month and a spate of knife attacks by young people. Mr Howard has already announced tougher sentences for anyone convicted of carrying a knife as a weapon.

The proposed ban was announced as MPs debated the Offensive Weapons Bill, introduced by the Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland and supported by the Home Office. Ministers are to consult on how ban could be introduced and may amend the Bill or introduce separate legislation.

Tim Kirkhope, Home Office Minister, told the Commons: "Young children simply do not need razor-sharp kitchen knives or commando-style daggers and it is hard to justify why they should be able to buy them."

Last week Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, told the Home Affairs Select Committee that he would welcome any restriction on the sale of knives to young people. "There is a growing willingness by young people to carry knives... as part of a street culture," he said.

For many years police have been raising concern about the growing trend among young people to carry weapons. It may be a thin craft knife tucked into a sock, a hunting knife bought from a sports shop or one of the weapons used in martial arts. In 1988 London saw a peak of 2,758 knife offences committed by both adults and young people. By 1993 the figure had fallen to 2,332 but last year it rose again to 2,550.

Investigators have discovered branches of chain stores and small hardware shops prepared to sell knives and axes to children as young as 11 without question being asked. Police are, however, more likely to be concerned about the practicalities of enforcing the ban. They feel that the law will have to differentiate between a youth intent on violence and someone using a knife for camping or angling.

Yesterday the Association of Chief Police Officers gave its support to a ban: "The reasoning behind it is logical and understandable."

## Novelist's village loses its policeman

BY JOANNA BALE

THE bestselling novelist Jilly Cooper has lost a campaign to keep her village policeman after Gloucestershire police confirmed that he is being moved to a housing estate near by.

Ms Cooper yesterday condemned the plan to relocate PC Malcolm Shute from the Cotswold village of Bisley to a new station on a housing estate in neighbouring Bussey, in what the force believes is a "more effective use of resources".

She described PC Shute, 25, as a "darling friend", and added: "It is madness to take our policeman away. We want to feel safe in our village and have our own policeman, like we have always had. This is just another erosion of traditional village life."

The new station is among 800 new homes on the Manor Farm estate in Bussey, near Stroud. In 1994 Ms Cooper organised a protest against building the estate and threatened to stand in front of bulldozers. She is also campaigning against plans for another 112 houses in the area, claiming that developers are ruining the countryside.

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### ACCUMULATOR WINNERS

Mrs A Berry of Chesham, Bucks, was Thursday's winner of a free flight with Virgin Atlantic. A total of 342 readers have won £5 Virgin Store vouchers.

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2 FOR 1 VIRGIN FLIGHTS — SEE PAGE 4

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Ministers  
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Young children don't want cute little toys — but their parents do, says study

## Bear facts reveal the truth behind teddies

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

**THE EVOLUTION OF THE TEDDY BEAR**

The evolution of the teddy bear has been determined by the survival of the cutest, a group of psychologists has discovered. Their appeal works on the adults who buy them, but not on the very young children who are expected to cuddle them.

The bear facts have come to light in a study to discover when children begin to display a nurturing instinct. The researchers say that up to the age of six, they would much prefer a more adult-looking bear.

Yet since the first teddy bears were made at the turn of the century, the species has evolved by becoming steadily more infantile. From a long-snouted, long-limbed bear, it has been transformed by degrees into a cute, snub-nosed, baby-like creature.

Earlier workers in the field of teddy bear evolution have suggested that baby-like bears are preferred because they stimulate "nurturing behaviour" — the desire to cuddle and cosset. But in *Animal Behaviour*, Dr Paul Morris and colleagues from the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth say that the babies who are given teddy bears are far too young to want to nurture them.

"You would think that they would prefer things that would give them nurture, rather than the other way



A century of evolution for a species: from left, bears of 1895, 1903, 1923, 1938, 1955, 1966, 1995 and a modern replica of a 1908 Steiff

around," he says. Tests showed he was right. Four baby-faced and four adult-faced bears were selected and shown to three groups of children: four-year-olds, six-year-olds and eight-year-olds. The bears were arranged in 16

pairs, in which one of the pair had baby features and the other adult features. The children were asked which they preferred.

Among the youngest children, 17 out of 24 preferred the adult-faced bears, but the

preference switched sharply in the older children. Among the six-year-olds, the baby-faced bears were preferred by 21 out of 27, and virtually the same result was reached with the eight-year-olds.

The results suggest, say Dr

Morris and his co-authors, Dr Vasu Reddy and Rebecca Bunting, that the evolution of the teddy bear has not been driven by the infants for whom they are bought, but by the adults who buy them. The

search is to try to establish just when, in a growing child, nurturing behaviour begins. The results suggest that this is between the ages of four and six.

The nice thing about the

study is that it showed incred-

ibly consistent results," said Dr Morris. The team also asked the children what they would do if they were given their favourite teddy. The youngest group wanted to play with them; the older groups preferred sleeping with their bears or cuddling them, consistent with the development of nurturing behaviour.

Dr Morris says that the study shows that evolutionary pressures are still influencing current behaviour, but the artificial selection of the teddy market has not led to an improvement in the function of the bear as a companion or comfort to young children.

"Teddy bears are now better at being bought by adults, not better at being cuddled by the young children they are usually bought for," the team concludes.

Dr Morris still has teddy bears of his own and says that people used to tease him about them. "So it's nice to be able to turn teddy bears into an academic study," he says. Other adult fans are said to have included Sir John Betjeman, Donald Campbell — who took his teddy on speed record attempts — and Prince Charles.

The first official teddy was made at the turn of the century by the German manufacturer Steiff, after president Theodore Roosevelt declined to shoot a bear when out hunting. Last year a Steiff bear was sold for £10,000.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

### Bosnia: the killing fields

The 250 men were lined up in rows, then told to go to the edge of the precipice and kneel. Behind them



Jon Swain

was a 60ft slope, then the vertical 1,000ft drop. The gunfire went on for 15 minutes. The men fell into the canyon below . . .

Jon Swain on the massacres in Bosnia — News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Man hurt after 'low priority' 999

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN who came home to find a stolen car in his garage could be left paralysed after the thieves ran him down. It last night the injured man's father blamed the police after they admitted not responding immediately to his initial 999 call. West Yorkshire Police said they had given it a low priority.

Doctors in a specialist spinal unit at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield were yesterday still uncertain whether Neil Patrick, 40, an accountant, would lose the use of his legs permanently after the incident on Wednesday. His father Joseph, 69, said: "If the police had come when Neil called them none of this would have happened."

Inspector Sam Sagar, a community liaison officer, said Mr Patrick reported the stolen car at 5.45pm. It was classed as non-urgent. A foot patrol was dispatched at 6.13pm but had not arrived when Mr Patrick made a second call to report the

thieves' appearance at 6.37pm. Officers arrived by van six minutes later.

The original call came in as

a car that had been abandoned with nobody there and therefore it would be prioritised as non-urgent.

Mr Patrick then phoned us again to say six youths had just returned. That upgraded the priority," Mr Sagar said.

Mr Patrick, a divorced

father of two from Bradford, used his own car to block in the stolen Vauxhall Cavalier SRI. Later, when he saw the youths push his car out of the way he tried to block their path but the youths drove straight at him. He was knocked in the air, and fell unconscious into the road.

Three months ago Mr Patrick chased off two burglars from a nearby house. Ian White, 38, a neighbour said: "He couldn't stand layabouts and we all looked up to him. He protected our neighbourhood from burglars. I only hope he gets better."

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# Patients say doctors failed to spell out risks of malaria drug

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

DOCTORS are failing to warn patients of the potential side-effects of an anti-malaria drug that the manufacturer admits can cause severe psychological problems in some travellers.

More than 20 people suffering serious reactions to Lariam, the strongest anti-malaria drug on the market, have contacted *The Times* after a news report about its potential dangers four days ago.

All reported suffering psychological disturbance, fits or panic attacks after taking the drug. They all also complained that they had not been warned of possible side-effects when the drug was prescribed by their GP.

Dr Paul Clark, head of the British Airways Immunisation Clinic in London, said: "We do still prescribe Lariam but we are always particularly careful to offer full counselling about its side-effects and we are always very careful to ask detailed questions about medical history. All doctors should do the same."

Dr Thomas Stuttaford, the *Times* doctor, said that doctors must give a warning and investigate medical histories. People with liver or kidney complaints or a history of depression or other psychological illness should not be given the drug. The manufac-



Stuttaford: says doctors must scrutinise patients' records

turer, Roche, concedes that 22 per cent of people will experience some side-effects but says its research shows that only one in 10,000 suffers "serious" problems. Lesser side-effects include dizziness and loss of balance, skin rashes and gastro-intestinal problems. However, research due to be published in the British Medical Journal shortly will heighten the debate about the dangers of severe reaction.

More than 70 sufferers are seeking legal aid to pursue a group action against Roche, seeking compensation. In view of reaction to the *Times* report, the figure could rise further. Dr Hamish Macleod, 43, a lecturer at Strathclyde University who contacted *The Times*, said he had been prescribed Lariam before a visit to Thailand in April last year. He collapsed in Bangkok on the day before he was due to return and blames the drug. "I had three months off work. I felt so stressed I had to lie down in a darkened room. I was finding it too stressful even to cross a road," he said. He also developed flu which persisted for two months. He said his GP had failed to warn him of the risks.

Shirley Gallagher, 27, the press officer of the animal charity Born Free, experienced panic attacks after being taking Lariam for a trip to Venezuela and was sent to hospital. She has since found it too stressful to return to work, although she continues to work from home. "I feel awful," she said. "It seems to change your personality. I don't feel able to go to the office."

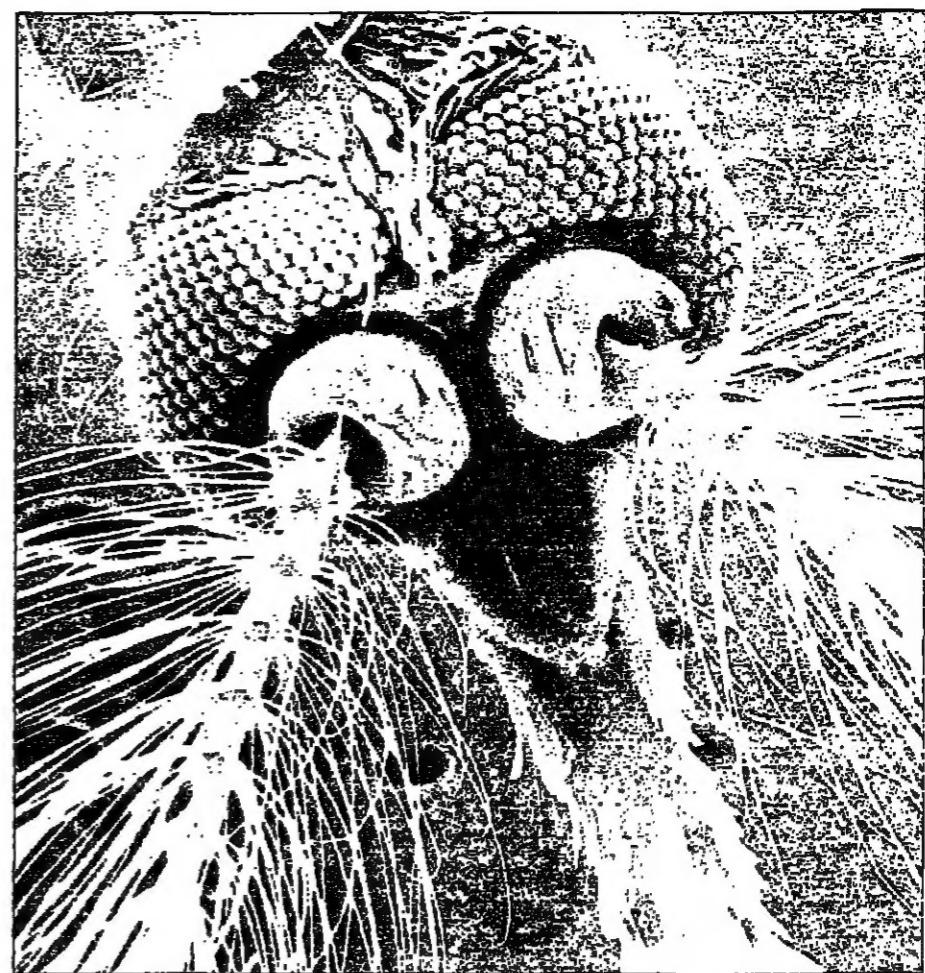
A 40-year-old sales manager with an insurance company in Dorset

believes that Lariam destroyed his family and his career. "I went on the holiday of a lifetime in July last year with my wife and daughter to Kenya," he said. "After we got back, I began behaving totally irrationally. I lost my job after I punched the boss and left my wife and daughter. One is loath to blame misfortune on someone else but it is Lariam. There is no other explanation." He returned to his wife and daughter last week. "My wife told me that person just wasn't me. It was the drug."

Several people taking the drug have reported hallucinations. A student from Exeter, who asked not to be named, said: "I took Lariam a year ago for a visit to Africa and started hallucinating. I was given an orange to eat at the airport and I thought it was alive. It was moving. I still get panic attacks today."

When Lariam appeared on the market in 1990 it was hailed as a breakthrough in the fight against a disease which kills about 20 British travellers to Africa, India and other tropical zones every year. Based on the drug mefloquine it was first developed by the US Army in Vietnam.

Roche has circulated GPs and travel clinics with information about the side-effects of the drug but stands by its research results.



The mosquito spreads malaria and other diseases that still threaten travellers

## Clergy fear cinema's crosses will offend

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FORMER Archbishop of Canterbury has joined a campaign to have stone crosses removed from a chapel before it is converted into a cinema.

The Rt Rev Lord Coggan, Archbishop from 1974 until 1980, is among a score of church and army leaders who have written to city planners in Winchester, Hampshire, to ask that three crosses be taken from the roof of the former garrison chapel at the Peninsula Barracks before the cinema opens next month. He said yesterday: "I think it will muddle people's minds to see a cinema with three crosses on its roof. I have no difficulty with the conversion of churches to secular use, but I do not think crosses should remain on a cinema."

Canon Colin Deedes, a former Master of St Cross in Winchester, said: "They could be an offence to all for whom the Christian symbol is deeply significant."

The city planners say that because the former chapel is a listed building the crosses cannot be removed without permission from English Heritage. The cinema's management has suggested covering them with metal discs so that they cannot be seen.

## Britain's Hollywood bows out to bingo

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Gainsborough film studios, once the most famous in the British film industry, are likely to be pulled down to make way for a bingo hall.

A small exhibition in the foyer will be the only reminder of 30 years of film production in which the studios, beside a canal in Hoxton, east London, produced a succession of quintessentially British classics under the trademark of the Gainsborough Lady, based on a portrait by the artist.

The studios started as the British headquarters of Paramount in 1919 and were taken over by Michael Balcon's Gainsborough Pictures in 1924. Alfred Hitchcock made his first important film, *The Lodger*, there in 1926 and returned in 1938 to make one of his most famous, *The Lady Vanishes*. Throughout the 1930s Britain's "Hollywood by the canal" kept up a steady output of popular films.

But with increasing costs and the advent of television Gainsborough Pictures went out of production in the early 1950s and the studios closed. Top Rank has filed an application for a 2,000-seat bingo hall and 24 flats on the site.

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Church needs strategy for all ages to stop 'decline into religious illiteracy'

## New bishop warns of moral vacuum threatening cities

By RUSSELL JENKINS

**ACTION** is needed to stop Britain's rapid decline into a religiously illiterate society, the new Bishop of London said yesterday. In his enthronement address at St Paul's Cathedral, the Right Rev Richard Chartres said there was an urgent need for the Church to communicate its mission and to challenge a "moral vacuum" threatening inner cities.

He called on Anglicans to exploit the potential of modern communications, and to get out and engage in honest dialogue with contemporaries rather than "retreat into any ghetto".

The message was delivered against a background of controversy. Outside the cathedral, activists for Action for Gay and Lesbian Ordination staged a demonstration in protest at the new bishop's refusal to ordain women as

priests. Bishop Chartres, 48, a father of four and formerly Area Bishop of Stepney, replaces Dr David Hope, who was enthroned as Archbishop of York in December. He is the 132nd Bishop of London — the Church's third most senior job — and a traditionalist and strong family man who has warned of the threat of moral barbarism in cities.

From the pulpit, Bishop Chartres said he agreed with Dr Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, who recently expressed concern about moral relativism and the need for young people to receive stronger guidance. "I believe he is right when he suggests that Britain is fast becoming a religiously illiterate society and that in some places we are threatened by a moral vacuum."

The new bishop echoed calls for the millennium celebrations to be given a greater spiritual dimension, saying it was up to the Church to "remind people whose millennium it will be".

The Church of England has the responsibility of equipping itself to communicate in the public realm and to recognise the potential for good in new media of communication.

"True communication with our neighbours involves following Jesus as we see him in dialogue with a great variety of surprising people in the Gospels."

There should be more religious education in schools, he said, but churches ought to have clear educational strategies for every age group.

The new bishop echoed calls for the millennium celebrations to be given a greater spiritual dimension, saying it

represented the Roman Catholic Church at the service. Also taking part were Archbishop Gregorios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, The Very Rev Eric Evans, The Venerable Michael Till, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, officially installed Bishop Chartres into the Episcopal Throne. Cardinal Basil Hume

70 women priests in his diocese but will not ordain women himself.

He has said there will be no witchhunts against homosexual clergy, although he believes strongly that the church allows for either celibacy or lifelong, faithful marriage.

At your service  
Weekend, page 3



Strong family man: the new bishop with wife Caroline and their children

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Credo

## The truth that lights the way for all creeds

Geoffrey Rowell

AMONG the minor changes in the Book of Common Prayer, when it was revised in 1662 after the Restoration of Charles II, was the provision of a subtitle for the Feast of the Epiphany: "the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles". That theme contrasted the adoration of the Jewish shepherds at Christmas with the gifts of the Magi representing the homage of the non-Jewish world to the infant Christ. The Feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, on February 2, picks up both themes with Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* hailing the child brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph as "the Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Israel".

Jesus was hailed by Christians as the promised Messiah, the Christ of God. Yet "Messiah" and "Christ" — one a Hebrew word, the other Greek, meaning simply "the anointed one" — are words that belong to the prophetic longing of the Jewish faith, a longing for God's deliverance to be brought about by the coming of God's chosen deliverer.

When the Christian faith spread into the non-Jewish world, Christians were immediately faced with an apologetic task. If Jesus was the revelation of God, then what was his relationship to the philosophy and the religious practices of the non-Jewish world? How was a word like "Christ" to be made sense of to those not nurtured on the Jewish scriptures?

There were those who took a strong, exclusive line. The fierce North African lawyer, Tertullian, asked about the year 200: "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" The answer, for him, was nothing. Yet, ironically, his own Christian writings betray the influence of Greek Stoic philosophy upon him. Athene did in fact have something to do with Jerusalem, even if he did not admit it.

The Christ manifested to the Gentiles is the one who "gathers up the scattered fragments of truth and makes of them a perfect mirror".

□ The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.



to hold fast to Jesus Christ as the Word made flesh, they can draw much from those early Christian apologists who found in Christ the fulfilment of all deep spiritual yearning, and all endeavours to set forth eternal truth. The Church of England report, *The Mystery of Salvation*, was right to reaffirm that we deny the truth and goodness which Christ, as Logos, and God by the Spirit, can also inspire in those of other faiths and of none.

The Christ manifested to the Gentiles is the one who "gathers up the scattered fragments of truth and makes of them a perfect mirror".

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Republic Day plea for clean-up in public life

## India's corruption 'threat to national security'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA observed Republic Day yesterday in a mood of unprecedented despair.

The chaotic state of politics, the spread of corruption in business and government, and uncertainty about the direction of economic reforms have left the country more divided and troubled than perhaps at any time in 49 years of independence.

President Sharma, in an address on the eve of Republic Day, said corruption, criminalisation of politics, caste discrimination and communal strife threatened national security. In a clear reference to a torrent of corruption scandals shaking the nation, he exhorted "persons holding prominent public offices to be in the forefront in the movement for a cleaner public life".

His appeal — front-page news yesterday — came at a time of national disgust with political leaders who have been slandering each other with abandon in recent weeks

after the implication of members of every national party in a bribery scandal. Only the Communists and regional parties have come out clean.

Three Cabinet ministers have resigned and been charged with taking money from a businessman: L.K. Advani, a leader of the opposition, resigned from parliament after denying bribery charges; P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, refused opposition claims that he accepted hundreds of thousands of pounds in backhanders; many MPs and several leading state government dignitaries are under pressure to resign for alleged corruption.

The decay of the political system is forcing the Supreme Court increasingly to impose its will on the Government. But for the court's sustained pressure, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a tool of the Prime Minister, would never have pursued the corruption charges, since no national

party was keen on them. The scandal is based on the diaries of a businessman, S.K. Jain, who kept a list of politicians he supposedly bribed. The CBI said he had told police he gave 35 million rupees (£636,000) to the Prime Minister.

So parlous is the state of government that Biju Patnaik, a senior leader of the left-of-centre Janata Dal, suggested that the army should take over the running of the country.

The President's attack on communism, the euphemism for Hindu-Muslim conflict, came two days after the pro-Hindu state government in Maharashtra announced it was winding up a three-year investigation into anti-Muslim riots that killed hundreds in December 1992 and January 1993 in Bombay, the state capital. This has disgusted Muslim leaders and further emphasised the religious divide. The inquiry was about to expose the role of Shiv Sena, an extremist party that has

since come to power in Bombay, in the killings.

The economic reforms are mostly on hold because they are unpopular at the grassroots, but they will be resumed whenever comes to power after the general election, expected in March or April. The increasing rich-poor divide worries many Indians who see it as a recipe for social unrest.

Nobody in the upper reaches of Government can be confident that the "trickle-down" theory of wealth can work when hundreds of millions play no part in the economy. Most wealth in India is held by the 3 per cent of the people who speak English and who do well from the reforms. New outward signs of mega-wealth are superficial signs of prosperity. Even sustained economic growth of 7 per cent would take years to make an impact at the grass roots.

Photograph, page 24

## Self-rule Muslims barred at Ramadan

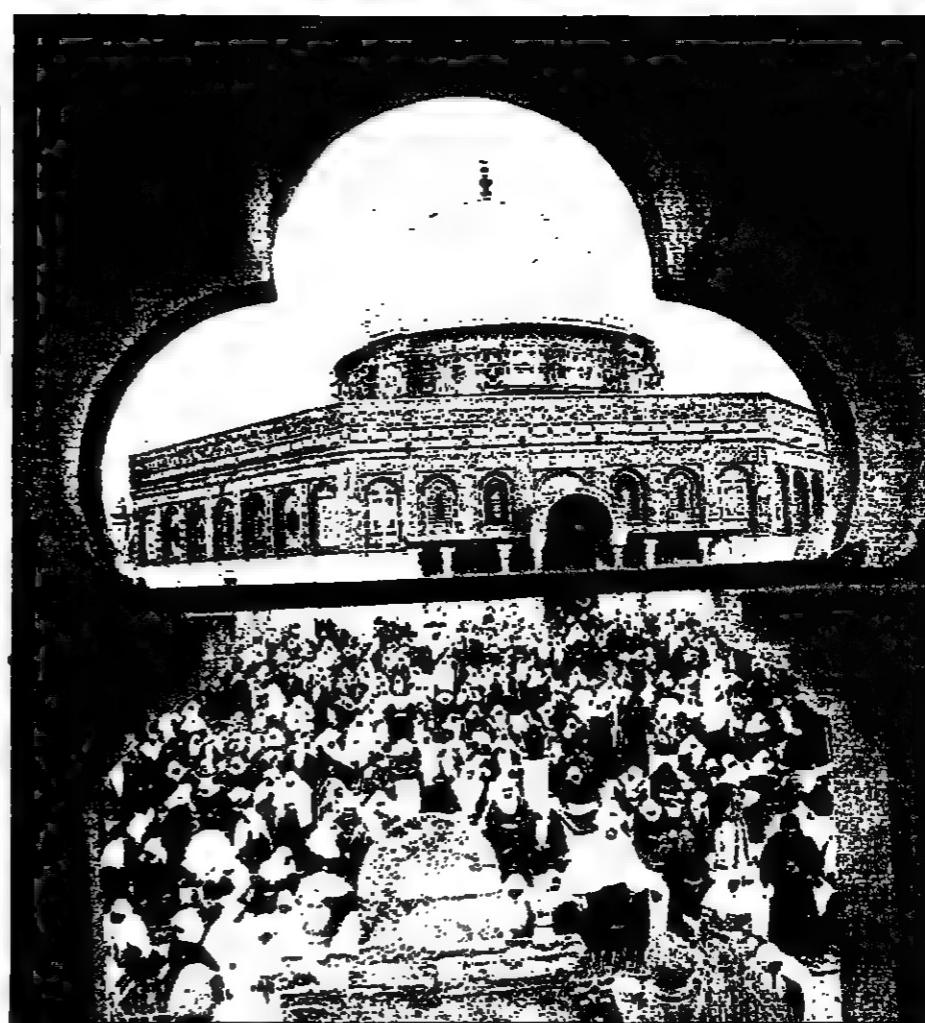
BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAEL banned Palestinians from the Gaza Strip self-rule enclave from entering Jerusalem hours before the first Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan yesterday. Entry for people living in the West Bank was restricted.

Police had been reinforced because of fears that there could be unrest after the prayers at Islam's third holiest shrine, the al-Aqsa mosque, Israel's army radio said.

The move is bound to anger the Palestinian National Authority administering the self-rule areas.

At the same time, an end to blanket conscription of Israelis into the army was sought by the outgoing general in charge of personnel, who told Israel Radio the country had thousands of unnecessary soldiers. Brigadier General Israel Einhorn, who has completed 25 years of service, said about 20 per cent of conscripted soldiers no longer completed the three years of mandatory service.



Ramadan prayers drew over 160,000 Muslims to al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem yesterday

## Venezuela's former Miss Universe seeks presidency

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI  
IN CARACAS



IRENE SÁEZ is beautiful and rich — and hoping to use the charm and fluttering eyelashes that won her the Miss Universe crown in 1981 to become the next President of Venezuela.

The 34-year-old, 6ft former beauty queen could be playing a part in one of her country's feisty soap operas. But her story is real.

Four years ago she left the catwalk to campaign to become mayor of the leafy, middle-class district of Chacao in the capital Caracas, home to two million people. To the surprise of many she won, and carved herself a niche in Venezuela's macho-style politics.

As mayor, Señorita Sáez has cut notorious crime rates and cleaned up streets in her district, now the envy of other areas in the capital where dilapidated tower blocks and shanty towns dominate.

Two weeks ago she ran again and won another mayoral term with a majority of 96 per cent. An independent, she emphasises her distance from old-style parties and, after two victories, plans to run in presidential elections, scheduled to take place in two years' time.

"People need me and if that means that I have to take my political career further, then I am ready for it," she said in her mayoral office, its walls covered in photographs and paintings of herself.

The youngest of six children, Señorita Sáez was born into a well-off middle-class family and, apart from entering beauty contests, she has a political science degree.

Opinion polls put her 15 percentage points ahead of the septuagenarian President Caldera, blamed for the country's economic crisis and volatile political situation.

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# Farrakhan given \$1bn war chest by Gaddafi

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TWO of Washington's most stalwart enemies appeared yesterday to have fashioned an unholy alliance to influence American elections and foreign policy as part of a pledge to spend \$1 billion (£666 million) on "Muslim causes" in the United States.

After a meeting in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, between Louis Farrakhan, the highly controversial black leader of the Nation of Islam, and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, there was said to be strong consensus on funding an effort to unify Muslim groups in America.

"Our confrontation with America was like a fight against a fortress from outside, and today we found a breach to enter into this fortress and confront it," Colonel Gaddafi said in a statement issued by Jana, the official Libyan news agency. He also called for the creation in America of a separate black state with its own army manned by black soldiers from the US armed forces.

Mr Farrakhan, who has gained prominence among black Americans after organising a "Million Man March" on Washington last year to promote black separation, made no response yesterday. Calls to his Chicago headquarters were unanswered.

But he was quoted by Jana

as being "happy" with the results of his meeting "to unify Arabs, Muslims, blacks and persecuted groups in America to play a strong role not only in the American elections but also in US foreign policy".

Libyan sponsorship of international terrorism, including the funding of IRA factions and the failure to deliver for trial in the West two Libyans suspected in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people, has left the country under stiff United Nations sanctions since 1992.

Last year Colonel Gaddafi challenged the UN ban on flights by organising aircraft to take his followers on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, and he has long been a champion of those he claims are oppressed.

It was not the first time he had met Mr Farrakhan, a man who has not merely called for black separation but also has described Jews as "bloodsuckers", Judaism as "a gutter religion", and the Holocaust as nothing compared to the slavery of blacks.

Their relationship goes back to 1985, when Colonel Gaddafi lent the Nation of Islam \$5 million for various business projects. In the same year, he told members of the radical organisation via satellite that he wanted to help black Americans in an armed struggle to overthrow oppression. Mr Farrakhan is said to have thanked the Libyan politely but rejected his offer of arms.

This week's meeting was seen as the conclusion of Colonel Gaddafi's appeal last year to organise ten million Muslims in America when he said he would spend up to \$1 billion to set up such a lobby.

The Libyan leader, however, is known to exaggerate and in the past has made what can only be described as hallucinatory statements, such as the proposal that his son marry President Clinton's daughter Chelsea to improve relations between Libya and America.



Farrakhan: money to fund Muslim causes

## Execution fails to draw jail protesters

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN BLUFFDALE UTAH

AFTER a life defined by misery, John Albert Taylor failed even in his final hope of embarrassing Utah state with his death by firing squad.

Floodlights were set up for protesters on a hill above Bluffdale's snowbound execution chamber, but none came. The head of Utah's prisons noted with satisfaction that five hunting rifles had proved quicker and no less sanitary than a lethal injection. A journalist who saw the convicted child killer's chest slam back into his chair called it "an honest way to die".

After a day of bleak and sometimes moving ritual inside the death-watch cell, and intense security outside it, Taylor was collected at 11.45pm on Thursday by 11 guards. Asked by the warden if he had any last words, Taylor, strapped to the chair, said quietly but firmly: "I'd just like to say for my family and friends, as the poem was written, 'remember me but let me go'. That's it." The shots were fired 45 seconds later.

"All I heard was the last number in the countdown, number three," Craig Wall, a visibly distressed television reporter, said. "Then a very loud boom. I saw his chest heave up, his left hand tighten, relax and tighten again. The cloth tattered on his chest just seemed to disappear. It left me feeling kind of numb."

The mother of Charla King, 11, whom he was convicted of murdering in 1989, did not attend.

After a standard prison lunch Taylor telephoned an ex-girlfriend and was visited by two family members. Complaining that his stomach was "doing flip-flops", he was given medical attention before a special late afternoon meal of pizza and Coca-Cola. He wrote a will, prayed, sang hymns, "discussed the after-life", and wept.

Taylor, who was abused by his stepfather, pleaded innocent to Charla's murder. Branded a "remorseless paedophile", he never confessed, although his relatives did not contest his guilt. Among his visitors was a sister, Laura, who gave evidence that he had raped her.



Faith in the future: Deshung Rinpoche IV, also known as His Holiness Nawang Kunga Tegechen Chokyi Nyima, with his mother, Carolyn Lama, at their Seattle home. The four-year-old, who is believed to be the reincarnation of a revered Buddhist lama, will be travelling to Tibet for ten years of training as a spiritual leader

## Rise of Forbes rattles Dole camp

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE aura of inevitability that surrounded Robert Dole's bid for the Republican presidential nomination is vanishing fast.

A batch of new polls in key states shows an alarming slip in his support while that of his closest rival, the multimillionaire publisher Steve Forbes continues steadily to rise.

Mr Dole and Mr Gramm have vastly superior organisations to Mr Forbes's in Iowa, meaning their supporters are much more likely to turn out on the night. The figures nonetheless chilled the Dole camp, which knows that if their man wins less than the 38 per cent he secured against Vice-President Bush in the

November. The latest poll in Iowa, which holds the nation's first seriously contested caucuses in just over two weeks, gave Mr Dole 26 per cent, Mr Forbes 18 and Phil Gramm, Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander seven each.

Mr Dole and Mr Gramm have vastly superior organisations to Mr Forbes's in Iowa, meaning their supporters are much more likely to turn out on the night. The figures nonetheless chilled the Dole camp, which knows that if their man wins less than the 38 per cent he secured against Vice-President Bush in the

1988 caucuses, he will be an extremely weak and vulnerable frontrunner.

Polls in New Hampshire, which holds the first primary one week later, are just as unconvincing. One gave Mr Dole 30 per cent, Mr Forbes 20 and Mr Buchanan and Mr Gramm ten each. A second gave Mr Dole 36 per cent, Mr Forbes 20, Mr Buchanan 12 and Mr Alexander ten.

Mr Dole had hoped to score such resounding victories in Iowa and New Hampshire that the nomination battle would be over before it had really begun, but that optimis

mism has evaporated. Though he is campaigning virtually fulltime, he sounds a little rattled.

His presidential rivals naturally seized on his wretched performance to challenge his strongest claim to the nomination — that he is the candidate best equipped to defeat Mr Clinton. But the criticism extended far beyond his rivals.

Even Rush Limbaugh, the radio talk show host and arbiter of conservative opinion, joined the attack, fretting that Mr Clinton would be re-elected if this is the best we can do.

## Quarterback tackled by politically correct lobby

BY QUENTIN LETTS

POLITICAL correctness has reached that toughest of arenas, American football. A white player in tomorrow's Superbowl has been accused of racism because of the language he uses when exhorting his black team mates.

Troy Aikman, quarterback for the mighty Dallas Cowboys, allegedly

singled out black colleagues for his bluest epithets. The quarterback is a pivotal man on the American football field, and customarily shouts instructions to the various attack players.

According to an anonymous complainant, Mr Aikman was unduly aggressive when addressing black players. Television footage showed him angrily slamming the ball down

at the feet of a black player after an unsuccessful manoeuvre. The matter was reported to the Cowboys' coach, Barry Switzer, who already had a strained relationship with his star quarterback. The two are now barely talking.

The controversy dominated the Cowboys' preparations in Arizona for Superbowl 30 tomorrow, when they

will take on the little-fancied Pittsburgh Steelers. Mr Aikman was swarped by reporters and asked if he was a racist. "I have no problem with my relationships with anyone on this team," he said of the Cowboys, but added that there was "some legitimacy" to accounts of what had occurred. Black teammates of Mr Aikman came to his defence yesterday.

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'After Hong Kong there is Macau and Taiwan in Long March to reunification'

# Jiang picks tycoon to take over from Patten

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG  
AND JAMES PRINGLE

PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN yesterday welcomed the establishment of a Chinese-appointed committee that will reinforce Chinese rule over Hong Kong next year, when British authority ends, and said it was a first station on what he called China's Long March to reunification.

The installation of the 150 members of the Preparatory Committee — none of them members of Hong Kong's biggest political grouping, the Democratic Party — at a ceremony in Peking was being watched with apprehension in the British territory.

Speaking in the Great Hall of the People to the delegates assembled for the formal founding of the committee, to be led by Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, Mr Jiang implied the way Hong Kong is handled could affect the issue of the return of Macau and Taiwan to China. Diplomats said this provides some safeguards for Hong Kong residents, given Peking's concerns about reuniting Taiwan with the mainland. The committee — which includes an eclectic mix of academics, lawyers and business tycoons from the

territory and uniformed Chinese army generals, officials and Communist Party cadres — will be in charge of setting up a new legislature and government, and thus dismantling the arrangements introduced by Britain, particularly the widening of the franchise under the electoral reforms introduced by Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, which have infuriated Peking.

"In terms of reunification, the return of Hong Kong to the motherland is the first station in our Long March," Mr Jiang said as letters of appointment to each of the 150 members, 94 from Hong Kong and 56 from the mainland, were handed out. "After that, there is Macau and finally Taiwan."

After the ceremony, Mr Jiang pointedly walked down a line of committee members to shake hands with Tung Chee-hwa, a shipping magnate whose name has been mentioned as a possible first Chief Executive who will take Mr Patten's place on July 1, 1997. It effectively placed Peking's imprimatur on Mr Tung as China's designate for Hong Kong's actual ruling body.

It was a striking, some



Qian Qichen, Chinese Foreign Minister, third from left, at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Hong Kong yesterday

might say crude, pre-emption of the Preparatory Committee's only really important responsibility: picking an "election committee" of 400 who some time later this year will choose the Chief Executive, who in turn will select an inner core of senior officials, many of them already serving the present Government, who may say will form, not a shadow government, but long before the handover to Britain seemed to rule her out.

But Mr Tung has long been a Peking favourite. A stupendously rich tycoon, with the

possible candidates to be Chief Executive have been Hong Kong's favourite political guessing game. The population's overwhelming favourite is Anson Chan, the Chief Executive and Deputy Governor. Ms Chan, a 30-year veteran of the civil service, is the bureaucracy's longed-for selection. But her very abilities and her long service to Britain seemed to rule her out.

Shanghai background that would especially appeal to President Jiang, whose "Shanghai clique" forms the leading group in China. Mr Tung is a member of the People's Political Consultative Conference, a group of mainland and overseas Chinese worthies billed as advisers. He is also in Mr Patten's Executive Committee or Cabinet.

"We will have a bright future if we do well with this first station of Hong Kong,"

the Chinese President and

party chief told the delegates, adding that they faced a tough task to complete their work in the less than 17 months remaining before the handover. "You have a long way to go."

China resumes sovereignty over the Portuguese colony of Macau in 1999, but reunification with Taiwan appears distant, with ties between Peking's Communist rulers and the island's Nationalists increasingly bitter over what China sees as an effort by President Lee of Taiwan, fac-

ing elections in March, to raise Taiwan's profile and possibly seek independence — which Mr Lee denies.

One role of the Preparatory Committee is to appoint a group of 400 to choose the Chief Executive to run the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region when Britain leaves. The committee has also been empowered by Peking to draw up the first Government that will run Hong Kong after the British flag is lowered at midnight on June 30, 1997.

## European specialists reported to be treating Saddam for cancer

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

INTELLIGENCE experts in the Middle East were attempting yesterday to verify reports that President Saddam Hussein is suffering from lymphatic cancer.

The claim, which appeared first in *Foreign Report*, the London-based, limited-circulation newsletter produced by *The Economist* and known for its links to Western intelligence agencies, was given international prominence when it

was published yesterday on the front page of *The Jerusalem Post*.

The paper's well-connected London correspondent, Douglas Davis, said that sources had disclosed to *Foreign Report* that the 55-year-old Iraqi leader was receiving treatment from European cancer specialists who had been summoned to Baghdad where, due to United Nations sanctions, medicines are in short supply.

According to the Post account, which caused a sensation in embas-

sies in Israel and the Arab world, Saddam is said to be receiving radiation therapy and steroids which have left him bloated. The Post reported: "The cancer is described as a form of Hodgkin's disease, which is not necessarily fatal if detected at an early stage."

Western diplomats reacted cautiously to the story, which one noted could have "far-reaching and potentially explosive" repercussions for the region if it is true. Intelligence analysts said that it was common for senior members of the

Baghdad regime to be treated by medical teams from Europe.

"It is impossible at this stage to say for certain whether this report is true or whether it is deliberate disinformation spread by one or more foreign intelligence agencies for their own particular agenda," Ogra Bengio, leading Iraqi expert at Israel's Dayan Centre, said.

Barry Rubin, author of a new book, *Iraq's Road to War*, said: "I read the story with fascination. Because of the source there is a 50 per cent chance it is true and a 50

per cent chance it is disinformation — and at this stage, I cannot say which."

A number of other Arab leaders are suffering from serious health problems that could easily destabilise the region if they should prove fatal. King Husain of Jordan, the leading supporter of the new peace process with Israel, has had a kidney removed after cancer was diagnosed; King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has recently been forced to hand over power because of failing health; and President Assad of

Syria is suffering from an unspecified blood disease which diplomatic claim is leukaemia.

"The report on Saddam's alleged cancer is detailed enough to lend it some veracity, but such is the secrecy that surrounds his life in Baghdad and the lack of access to him, that we are not likely to find out definitely one way or another," a European diplomat said. "The trouble with checking its veracity is that there is a lot of wishful thinking, so many people would like it to be true."

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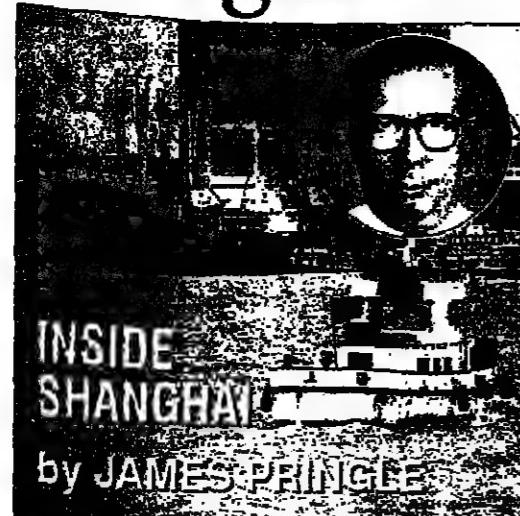
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*John Lewis*

# Dragon's head gets a taste for raw capitalism



**INSIDE SHANGHAI**  
by JAMES PRINGLE

Shanghai may be booming, but behind the city's prosperity lie the Communist Party's iron grip and doubts about the future intentions of Peking.

ONCE it was the Paris of the Orient, but for decades after the Chinese Communists came to power in 1949 Shanghai either languished or became a bastion of leftism.

Now, at last, the city seems to have taken off again with a vengeance. Gleaming new hotels are stuffed with foreign businessmen, bankers and property dealers hoping to cash in on the bonanza.

Shanghai's famed entrepreneurial spirit appears to have been set free. More than half a million play the stock market, housed in the 1860 Astor Hotel's ballroom, where visitors of China's current Communist leaders stare down from the walls on a scene of raw capitalism.

In the past three years, since the paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, belatedly opened the floodgates by giving the go-ahead for this huge entrepot port near the mouth of the Yangtze river to "get rich" like the coastal cities of south China, a frenzy of activity has included construction of bridges, tunnels, flyovers, ring-roads and hotels.

"The Yangtze is like a dragon,

on crossing China with Shanghai as the dragon head," says Zhang Sanfu, boss of Yachua Pilkington Glass, a Sino-British venture in Pudong. "Already we are catching up and I believe that in the next century Shanghai will become the most important city in China."

Pudong (East River) is a 200-square-mile complex of industrial parks, giant department stores and housing developments rising on the mudflats across the Whangpoo river from the Bund, Asia's best-known waterfront with its former foreign banks and trading houses.

On the rare day when the winter smog that wreathes the city lifts, the view from the top of the futuristic 1,544ft Oriental Pearl tower, dominating the Bund from the Pudong side of the Whangpoo, is of hundreds of building sites topped by cranes where tens of thousands of transient labourers work beside pounding piles.

You really have the sense that Shanghai has taken off and will once again become an international centre of trade

and finance," says Dr Terry Gandy, of Manchester, who has been overseeing the Pilkington venture since the early Eighties.

This vibrant Shanghai is a far cry from the sad, grim city of two decades ago during the Cultural Revolution. Then children were taught to hate flowers and told to grow herbs. Even in the late Eighties, investment-starved Shanghai had a lacklustre feel. Yet beneath today's glittering surface of glamorous boutiques, throbbing discos and simpering "girls who sell a smile" and proposition for foreigners, the Communist Party retains a tight grip on power, even more so than in Peking. Envoy wonders how the city can become such an economic powerhouse when the free flow of ideas is curbed.

Analysts also point out that its fate rests with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, a former Shanghai Mayor, and a coterie of local protégés who now dominate the national leadership in Peking and closely direct developments back in their power base. A change in China's leadership could mean a shift of fortune for Shanghai, some foreign investors fear.

Shanghai and its current 13.5 million population, after all, has a turbulent political past — sometimes too capitalist, sometimes too leftist. The Communist Party was founded here in 1921 despite the foreign treaty port era. During the Cultural Revolution the city was the radical Gang of Four's HQ.

The Mao caps and tattered suits of the three million Migrant, or rural transient workers, contrast today with the designer clothes of the elite —

an income gap that might fuel envy and unrest.

It is these labourers who allegedly contribute to the social problems which, as in prewar days, include the abandoning of unwanted children. Some of those end up in the city's orphanage, the centre of charges that it lets children die to keep numbers within its budget.

The dissident movement, envys say, has been crushed in Shanghai, more so even than in Peking, with former activists in labour camps, in exile, or having simply given up the struggle for rights.

"There is a huge stress on social stability," noted one diplomat. "The party is afraid of losing its grip on the population at a time of eco-

nomic change. But, at the moment, Shanghai fulfills the ultimate Dengish dream — economic prosperity with total party control."

Though waitresses in cowgirl outfit serve table at one hotel restaurant, and black-leather ultra-short mini-skirts were in vogue last summer, there are disconcerting reminders of recent Communist history, such as the disastrous 1958-1959 Great Leap Forward. To build the ring-road, for instance, 50,000 workers were mobilised, some arbitrarily ordered away from

foreign joint ventures. But few these days seem to think of the dissidents they are too busy spending money in the shops of imported goods that line the city's two famous shopping streets — Nanking Road and Huaihai Road. But the frenzy has slowed down from an initial free-spending period 18 months ago.

Though there is Bally and Printemps, Louis Vuitton and three Italian restaurants, surprisingly, given its past, Shanghai does not yet have the feel of a cosmopolitan city. At this stage, Shanghai

could still go either way, many analysts feel. "Shanghaiese know where they are going because they have been there before," said one enthusiastic recent foreign arrival involved with business. "They have a sense of what Shanghai is and what it can be."

That is true, but there is another side to the picture. "Things are flying along now, but Shanghai has known violent swings," said a long-serving resident foreign trade official. "You never know when the political wind might change again."

## Chinese vessels trigger gun battle

FROM ABBY TAN  
IN MANILA

GUNBOATS of the Philippine Navy exchanged gunfire with one of two vessels flying the Chinese flag off Subic free port. There were a number of casualties on the Chinese side, said the navy, which suspects they were smugglers.

It said yesterday that the two vessels sailed into Philippine waters, 12 miles off Subic, northwest of the capital, Manila, this week. A naval craft fired warning shots and a 90-minute gun battle ensued at night. One of the Chinese ships tried to ram the naval craft but failed when it came under heavy machinegun fire from the gunboat. The two vessels then escaped.

The navy said it believed that one of the Chinese vessels was "hit and incurred casualties". The gunboat was unable to pursue the vessels because its guns had jammed and it was out of fuel. None of the naval crew suffered injuries.

In a separate statement yesterday, the navy described the intruders as suspected smugglers. Chinese ships do call at Subic free port to load cargoes of duty-free cigarettes and liquor for the mainland China market.

A spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines said President Ramos had been informed of the clash, which occurred on Monday. The presidential palace has yet to respond to media inquiries.

This week's clash is the first violent incident between the two countries. Last May, Chinese vessels prevented a Philippine Navy craft carrying journalists from entering the disputed Spratlys in the South China Sea, where the Chinese Navy had secretly occupied Mischief Reef, also claimed by the Philippines.

Earlier this week, Baroness Thatcher told a business forum in Manila that China would be a more formidable military power in the near future, given the pace of its economic growth. It was prepared to use implied threats to extend its power, she added.



Vibrant Shanghai has taken off with a vengeance after years of neglect, revelling in its new freedom



A symbol of leftist faith on the Bund, where former foreign banks proclaim the city's capitalist links

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Socialist leader makes gastronomic garrison on Rhine a mecca for lawyers, politicians and tourists

## Leading lady's city triumph

**SLEEK**, prosperous, cosmopolitan, the ancient city of Strasbourg owes its future prosperity largely to two British cities: Edinburgh and York.

For it was in the Scottish capital in 1992 that a European summit took the long-awaited decision that meant life or death for Strasbourg: confirmation of the Alsatian border city as the sole and permanent site of the European Parliament's plenary sessions.

And it was from York that Strasbourg obtained the low-slung futuristic glass-and-steel carriages for the system that has transformed life in Strasbourg's twisting, overhung streets and leafy avenues and put the city on the world transport map: its pioneering modern tramway.

Both, in their separate ways, attract hundreds of thousands of tourists, and the lawyers, parliamentarians and Eurocrats whose monthly pilgrimages here have largely insulated Strasbourg

**STRASBOURG FILE**  
by MICHAEL BINYON



from France's current urban financial woes. Both are seen as crowning achievements of one of the country's most popular and influential women: Catherine Trautmann, Strasbourg's Socialist Mayor, who was, unusually, re-elected for a second term last year with an absolute majority on the first ballot.

Mme Trautmann knows that Strasbourg must now live, think and breathe Europe. The city of Albert Schweitzer, the Rhine Garrison town, university seat and medieval market that is as German as it is French and has changed hands four times this century, Strasbourg has made Franco-German reconciliation a cornucopia of possibilities.

### Making a meal out of politics

**ALMOST** every city in France boasts that it is the nation's culinary capital. Strasbourg seems quixotic in this insistent claim, for its famed dishes of choucroute, flammkueche, wiedele and backoffe seem more German than French: mountains of pork and fat more to the taste of Chancellors in Bonn than Presidents in Paris. The boast, however, is not idle. The most famous buildings are restaurants, and politics in Strasbourg is enveloped

in accusations of good eating and gourmet lifestyles. La Maison des Tanneurs shows off the photos of Nancy Reagan dining there. Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac sat down to bolster their prickly alliance in Chez Yvonne, a local Weinstube. Indeed, France's most bizarre murder case occurred just outside Strasbourg when Jean Schilling, the President of the Association of Master Chefs, was beaten to death when his restaurant was set alight.

organiser of international industrial fairs, teach-ins and conventions.

*Madame le Maire*, a woman with iron convictions, piercing eyes and a force of personality that remind people of a cross between Baroness Thatcher and Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, has made her name in this half-timbered city by a ruthless insistence on efficiency and planning. She has made the most of the withering of old industries by concentrating on investment in service industries, the environment and academic research institutions.

A Protestant theologian by training, she has an almost religious conviction on the need for efficient infrastructure. The tramway was her holy grail.

Sleek, green trams have now been gliding through the streets for just over a year. The single line, linking suburbs and city centre, will by the turn of the century be crossed by another.

Motorists are kept at bay by a combination of ferocious parking restrictions, road blocks reminiscent of the City of London and cheap tickets from park-and-ride centres on the periphery.

The system cost a fortune, but the trams are full. Taxi drivers complain there is less business. Town planners come from miles around to look at the comprehensive system.



Mme Trautmann, the popular and far-sighted Mayor of Strasbourg

## Briton has designs on the future

BRITAIN has long been seen as the odd one out in Europe — the naysayer, the scourge of the integrationists and the awkward sceptic who refused to share the visions of the future.

It is ironic, therefore, that Britain, of all countries, has played so large a role in founding and building European institutions. Strasbourg honours Winston Churchill and Ernest Bevin, men whose postwar calls for unity encouraged the other founding fathers.

A British architect is now responsible for the physical addition to the cluster of European institutions in Strasbourg. Sir Richard Rogers designed the new Palace of Human Rights, the building that houses the Court of Human Rights. The initial designs did not please the city — "more like a prison than a court" was the verdict; the revised conception has won more universal acclaim.

The Queen visited the site and planted a tree while the building was under construction in 1992 during her first and only visit to the city. Since its inauguration in June last year, Strasbourg has grown proud of the new palace.

European construction is still in progress, however. Despite a veritable complex of Euro-institutions, a larger, grander and more futuristic building is also going up to house the European Parliament due for completion in the next year or two. Sceptics might ask if it is needed.

"There really was no choice," Roland Ries, Strasbourg's Deputy Mayor, said. "When Brussels built an assembly chamber for the Parliament, Strasbourg had to show its commitment to the MEPs remaining here."

## Bosnian women tell of mass rapes

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN ZENICA, BOSNIA

SHE shut her eyes but the girl could not block out the Bosnian Serb soldiers' laughter as they held her stick-thin wrists and raped her over and over again.

She does not remember how many times, but she remembers their laughs. The soldiers also raped her mother, later shot and killed at their home in Zepa, eastern Bosnia.

The girl, 12, was also shot,

but survived and made her way to government-held Zenica in central Bosnia.

"I am sure her life is ruined," said Mirna Pojsik, a psychologist at the Medical centre, which specialises in helping women and children recover from war atrocities.

The girl's story could be one of those retold in court. Since the peace pact, war crimes investigators have stepped up collection of testimony and evidence of allegations of mass rape and the use of sexual

assault as a military policy. "This could be the first time in history that women are coming forward right after a war to talk about rape," said Jasna Bakic-Mutic, who is secretary-general of the Sarajevo chapter of the Union of Women's Associations of Bosnia.

The Hague tribunal's opening trial, scheduled for March 18, will mark the first time that rape has been included as a war crime. A woman, identified only as "F" in court documents, is to testify against Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb prison guard accused of murder, rape and torture.

The international tribunal has indicted 52 suspects — seven Bosnian Croats and 45 Bosnian Serbs, including the military commander, General Ratko Mladic, and the political leader, Radovan Karadzic.

Bosnian government officials say as many as 30,000 Muslim women may have been sexually assaulted during the 3½-year war.

## Austrians to honour Jews

VIENNA: Austria is to erect its first memorial to commemorate the Holocaust. Designed by Rachel Whiteread, a British sculptor, it is to be placed near a synagogue's ruins. Her sculpture, entitled "The Nameless Library", will show shelves of books with their spines turned inwards. The space inside is empty to represent the many readers who could not live on. About 65,000 Jews were killed in Austria by Nazis. (Reuters)

## Poles split on Oleksy successor

PROM PAT KOWA  
IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Kwasniewski of Poland formally accepted yesterday the resignation of Jozef Oleksy, the left-wing Prime Minister, and his Government but kept it in caretaker role until a new one is sworn in.

Taking seriously his campaign pledge to be President of the people, the former leader of the Democratic Left Alliance and the Peasant Party, fails to agree on a candidate.

"It is a good proposal, but it is not realistic," said Lech Walesa, the former President who ignited the crisis on

leaving office last month by making public the charge that Mr Oleksy had spied for Moscow for a decade. "In Poland, we are dealing with small interests, not the common good," he declared.

Mr Oleksy resigned after the military prosecutor this week began inquiries into his alleged KGB links.

Mr Kwasniewski, who met coalition leaders too, also talked to the Labour Union. He has 14 days to propose a candidate to the lower house.

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## ■ OPINION

Are we turning into a nation of snoozers? Research suggests that we just want to stay in bed



## ■ DANCE

The legacy of Diaghilev, perhaps the greatest of impresarios, goes on show at the Barbican



## ■ THEATRE

Pretty music, but superficial performances, in a new *Twelfth Night* in Watford



## ■ RECORDS

A brilliant disc from guitar virtuoso Sharon Isbin, plus other new CDs reviewed in Weekend, page 8

Tell me this. Are we sleeping too much? As a nation, I mean. It's an odd question, but it has been keeping me awake at nights. You see, this week the 1996 edition of *Social Trends* — the bible of British statistics — was published, and it suggests that we are a very dozy country indeed. The average British adult apparently sleeps an incredible 61 hours each week — or eight hours 43 minutes per night. They may be sleepless in Seattle, but in Sidcup, Stirling and Swansea, it seems, they can't get their heads down often enough.

Who are these amazing average adults? Nobody I know admits to sleeping more than seven hours a night, and some playboys of the Wapping world boast that they get by on four or five hours ("work hard, play hard, that's my motto, laddie"). Perhaps the figure in *Social Trends* takes into account those illicit naps in the office ("just popping down to the archives, Doris, hold the fort for an hour, would

you?"). Even so, there is clearly some discrepancy between anecdotal evidence and the cold statistical summaries of *Social Trends*. Perhaps we ought to call it a yawning gap.

If *Social Trends* is correct, it has all sorts of worrying implications for people in the entertainment industry. Consider this: Mr and Mrs Average spend eight hours and 43 minutes in the Land of Nod each night. Assume that their alarm goes off at 7.30am for a nine o'clock start at work. This would suggest that they are safely tucked up before 11pm each evening. So they will need to be home well before ten if they are to enjoy a cocoa, a bath and a quick canoodle before lights out (and *Social Trends* does suggest that the average adult spends a healthy 15 hours a week on "eating, personal

hygiene and caring", with the figure rising — for some mysterious reason — to an obsessive 21 hours for "females in part-time employment").

Do you see what I am driving at? If so, you have remarkable telepathic powers. Try bending some spoons while I elucidate for other readers. When did you last attend a play, concert, opera or ballet that finished before nine in the evening? I'll wager that you cannot remember. Yet logically that is when all live entertainment should finish, if it is to fit in with the dreary lifestyle of Mr and Mrs Average UK Adult. Little wonder, then, that the average time spent by our dull couple at "concerts, theatre, cinema and sports spectating" is deemed too insignificant for *Social Trends* to quantify.

It gets worse. Our average adult,

you have to conclude that the Average British Brain is disengaged from any semblance of activity for half of its life if "life" is what it is deemed to be.

True, some telly programmes can engage the brain. I am fairly sure that I am mentally alert during *Baywatch*, for example, whereas I drift in and out of consciousness during *Gladiators*, and have almost no recollection of *Blind Date*, though my loved ones assure me that I do, in fact, sit through many exciting instalments of Miss Cilla Black's *divertissement*.

But what's to be done about the Mogadon Majority? Or should anything be done? After all, the great poets are divided on the big sleep question. The School of Snooze, led by Keats, are all in favour of slumping into slumber —

or at least soporific slumberation — as often as possible:

*O soft embalmer of the still midnight:  
Shutting with careful fingers  
Our gloom-pleased eyes...*

Er, quite. Wake us when you reach the punchline, John. On the other hand, there's the "ain't life grand before dawn" school, led by Herrick. They advise rising at about 8am, so that Nature's wonders may be sampled while the dew is still fresh on the daisies:

*Nay! not so much as out of bed?  
When all the birds have matins  
said...*

That does seem excessively macho. I don't know about where you live,

but out here in deepest Hendon the birds tend to say matins pretty early. Nevertheless, Herrick's approach is surely closer to what our supine country needs at present. We can't go on wasting half our lives in a state of torpor.

Perhaps this could be the Big Idea that the Prince of Wales so earnestly seeks to mark the millennium. We could launch a national campaign: Keep Britain Awake. And not just awake, but active. It's unbelievable that the nation which produced Newton, Brunel, Wren and Dickens should now be content to devote four hours a week, on average, to "pet care". That's two whole years of an average British life spent dishing out Pedigree Chum.

Yet this is what *Social Trends* says that we do. I must say, I am starting to dislike *Social Trends*. It does seem to portray us as a nation of gormless slobs. After all, if these are Britain's social trends, just imagine how terrible the antisocial ones must be.

## This is your wake-up call, Britain



RICHARD MORRISON

says *Social Trends*, spends 19 hours a week basically watching the telly, and a further one or two hours "doing nothing". Add that to the 61 hours of actual sleep, and

# Genesis of a dance genius

Debra Craine

on an exhibition about the founder of the Ballets Russes

**H**e wasn't a dancer, he didn't make ballets. He didn't design them, and he didn't write the music for them. Yet Serge Diaghilev is one of the giants of the dance world, his name synonymous with innovation and excitement.

His circle of collaborators included some of the greatest dancers — Pavlova, Nijinsky, Karsavina — and the greatest choreographers — Fokine, Massine, Balanchine — of the 20th century. The array of designers who dressed his productions is awesome from Bakst and Benois to Picasso and Matisse. Diaghilev commissioned the most important ballet music Stravinsky ever wrote — *Firebird*, *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring* — and he employed Debussy, Satie, Ravel and Prokofiev to write ballets for him.

Even today, more than 65 years after his death in 1929, Diaghilev exudes a kind of exotic magnetism. Books and films have retold his story for each generation. Now a new exhibition at the Barbican, *Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes*, attempts to trace the development of Dia-

ghilev's vision, the entrepreneurial drive and artistic philosophy that led him to form the Ballets Russes, arguably the most influential ballet company ever. More than 300 works, selected by the art historian Ann Kodicek, have been drawn together from public and private collections in Russia and the West, including costumes and original set designs never seen in London before.

The exhibition is presented in two distinct halves. Upstairs is what came before the Ballets Russes, the early days in Paris where art and music were the everyday components of Diaghilev's privileged upbringing. Then, from 1890, the days in St Petersburg where he went to study law

and became part of Benois' Society for Self Improvement, a cultural talking shop for young artists and literati. It wasn't long before Diaghilev, Bakst and Benois were turning the art world on its head with their extraordinarily lavish magazine, *The World of Art* (one of the most impressive displays in the show); soon Diaghilev was making a name for himself mounting exhibitions of Russian and European paintings, culminating in the 1906 *Exhibition of Russian Art* in Paris.

Downstairs, though, is what

comes next: the glorious, art-driven thrust of the early years of the Ballets Russes (the Barbican show ends in 1914). The ground floor is fitted out like a theatre, with heavy red velvet curtains and eight proscenium arch decorations depicting scenes from Diaghilev's opera and ballet productions. Here you find Golovine's magic garden designs for *The Firebird*, Goncharova's primary-coloured Disneyland set for *Le Coq d'Or*, Bakst's extravagant evocation of an Arabian harem for *Scheherazade*, Benois' cosy puppet world for *Petrushka*. What is most evident is how these Russian artists, especially Benois and Bakst, came alive in the theatre; their paintings upstairs seem enlivened by the vibrancy of their work for the ballet.

There are 18 costumes: six from the State Theatre Museum in St Petersburg, 12 from the Theatre Museum in London (all of which have been hidden away in a warehouse). You can see the costume Karsavina wore as the ballerina in *Petrushka*; the costume Nijinsky wore for his Albrecht in 1911; Fokine's costume in *Carnaval*.

Diaghilev himself hovers like an invisible presence.

There are early photographs and, most impressively, those *World of Art* journals. But there are no personal possessions, no letters, no documentary evidence of the role he played in nurturing the talent in his midst. The one thing missing from this impressive exhibition is Diaghilev's extraordinary personality.

• Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes, Barbican Art Gallery (0171-822 7005), until April 14



Bakst's costume design for a Bacchante in *Narcisse*, one of 300 works at the Barbican

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### THEATRE

## Love on a warm dish

MUSIC, the food of love, plays a lead part in this Oxford Stage Company production, *Kate Bassett* writes. *Feste* (David Brett) underscores Shakespeare's scenes of half-confessed love, late-night drinking and near-duels with his accordion or guitar.

Kate Fleetwood's *Viola* and Sebastian (Christopher Chambers), her twin brother, open the play singing "Youth's a stuff will not endure" hauntingly, before spinning and parting in a dance that suggests their shipwreck. This opening song, lyrically sweet yet bitterly mournful, captures the play's poignancy, but there

are traces of sentimentality elsewhere.

The cast speak verse perfectly, but the subtleties are sometimes missing, and the intensity too. Lisa Turner's husky *Olivia* could be more proudly chatty and put double the passionate pressure on *Viola*. The latter might respond with fiercer prickliness.

Janine Wood's upmarket *Maria* is sparkly; Andrew Frame's Sir *Toby* is fine; Alexi Kaye Campbell, by making Sir Andrew Spanish, makes him less lowlily small-brained. Meanwhile the play's dark heart is scarcely plumbed. Brett lacks *Feste's* manic-depressive edge. Jonathen Coyne's Malvolio smiles with all the allure of a lunatic.

Still, the company, boldly playing soliloquies and repartee out to the audience, generates a warm atmosphere.

Then you've everything you need to sweet talk your loved one on Valentine's Day.

Twelfth Night  
Palace, Watford

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996



## ■ MUSICAL

The first European staging of Kurt Weill's Broadway show, *Love Life*, is spoilt by mediocre staging



## ■ BASE NOTES

Whitney Houston meets Mickey. Mouse, the singer and actress will now produce films for Disney

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ BASE NOTES

Sir Norman Foster is on the distinguished shortlist to design the V&A's Boilerhouse



## ■ ON MONDAY

Will Slaughter City prove to be a powerful new play for the Royal Shakespeare Company?

Rodney Milnes hails the revival of an obscure Weill musical, but not its staging

## Nice songs, shame about the visuals

**F**irst, the good news. Weill and Lerner's "vaudeville in two parts" of 1948 is an astonishing piece of work. "Years ahead of its time" may be the hoariest of clichés, but no other words will do. As the performance of this virtually plotless "concept" musical progressed in Leeds, title after title of Broadway shows that could scarcely have happened without it example kept springing to mind, in particular those of Sondheim — *Follies*, even *Assassins*, which also traversed a spectrum of popular American musical forms to bind the concept together.

There are also detectable foreshortenings of *West Side Story*, *Gypsy* and *Cabaret*, and it is tragic that this vital piece in the jigsaw of Broadway history should have gone missing for so long, and for reasons that have nothing to do with its quality. Strikes at the time of the successful first run meant no recordings and no sheet-music. Then, after Weill's death, Lerner blocked revivals for reasons of his own.

Yet it is much more than just an "important" score. You come out of the theatre unable to decide which of half-a-dozen great tunes you should be humming and, as is the case with Weill's European pieces, this means you have been got at the tunes carry words that you might not otherwise find palatable.

The subject is the breakdown and possible salvaging of a marriage, something of which almost every member of every audience must have some experience. The verbal treatment

is three parts sour to one part sweet, with the music coming in roughly the same proportion and in a bewildering variety of styles, from the two string lines in counterpoint at the opening (Broadway Bach) to *Oklahoma*-style upbeat to savage satire to affectionate pastiche of vaudeville and cabaret routines.

But every bar could only be by Weill, magnificently orchestrated, pulsating with compassion however hard-edged the surface context. The conductor, Wyn Davies, clearly relished the work's manifold beauties, and conveyed his relish to orchestra and audience alike.

Now for the less good news. For once it seemed that Opera North had bitten off more than it could chew. It would be nice to argue that the company simply didn't have the money to throw at a show that needs the utmost in Broadway pizzazz, but that wouldn't be the whole truth: you can field pizzas on no money at all. No, *Love Life* was misconceived visually, limply directed, and poorly choreographed.

The producer, Caroline Gawn, inexperienced in the genre, did not seem to know how to end a number (many were just left hanging in mid-air) and in a piece that is a succession of swiftly moving scenes, a drop curtain won't do — it's too slow. There were countless embarrassing hiatuses while we stared at the wretched curtain, waiting in silence for the next scene to begin. The show fell apart.

For the principals, out there on their own, nothing but praise. Margaret Preece played the ingénue wife very

sweetly and, even if she lacks the Ethel Merman dimension needed when the going gets nasty, made a lot of the dazzling torch song *Mr Right*. Alan Oke managed both the sleaze of *I'm Your Man* and the near-tragedy of his lonely monologue in a hotel room. Geoffrey Dolton played the

**Margaret Preece (foreground) in fine voice in Opera North's *Love Life***

*Cabaret*-style MC role with enormous panache — he proved a better mover than any of the eight dancers on stage — and sang the motto *Love Song* with great passion.

*Love Life* is a real eye-opener: go and see it, but just be very, very patient with the staging.

**Houston adds to her credits**

## ■ BASE NOTES

Covent Garden, which is run by the leading young theatre director Sam Mendes, had been destined to close in March after a commercial sponsorship deal ended.

Most of the other Arts Council clients were told this week that they faced a standstill grant for the fourth year running. That, however, is a lot better than was expected. Smart accountancy footwork by Lord Gowrie, the Arts Council chairman, limited the potential damage of the £5 million cut in the council's

grant. Nevertheless, Gowrie still believes that "a number of important organisations are on the brink of closure".

• HER duet with Boyz II Men is still at No 1 in America, her album *Daydream* remains the highest-selling non-soundtrack album in the US, and she has been nominated for six awards at the forthcoming Grammies. But one dark cloud has appeared on Mariah Carey's horizon. A Los Angeles court will soon hear an action brought by two local songwriters, Sharon Taber and Randy Gonzales,

who claim that Carey's 1991 hit *Can't Let Go* was lifted from a song they wrote.

• NEXT WEEK sees the first London workshop of a new stage version of the musical classic, *A Star Is Born*, produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. Attaching a new book by American librettist Larry Gelbart (*Of Mice and Men*) to Harold Arlen's existing score, the workshop will be directed by Steven Pinlott and star the Broadway actress Judy Kuhn (*Chess*, *Les Misérables*) in the role Judy Garland made famous. The performance is not open to the public, but is intended to give the creative team a chance to decide the next step.

The orchestra's name speaks loudly of its intentions. Formed in 1989 as the Docklands Sinfonia, the band has weathered the recession rather better than its former eponymous landscape, and

looks forward to the millennium determined to continue with adventurous programmes in which the newest of new music takes its turn with the classical repertoire — the ensemble is also committed.

Today's music promoters are adopting more and more desperate measures to sell new music. Orchestras have variously tried lightshows, video screens — even money-back offers. The Philharmonia, London Symphony and London Philharmonic have largely syphoned off new music into the occasional ghetto to concert.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra, which never gives up and has devised all sorts of symposiums and education programmes in which schoolchildren demonstrate their devotion to Harrison Birtwistle by composing still more new music in celebration of his, has tried unreserved seating and single-price ticketing.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is luring audiences to its series of "Glasgow Commissions" by twinning each new composition with a contemporary counterpart in dance, drama or visual art. The South Bank in London marks "21st century art" as a conglomerate of new music, world music and every other music in a search for a "redefinition of sound".

Meanwhile, the faithful London Sinfonietta, in its indefatigable series *Explorations* 96, offers "seriously modern music"; no compromises, nobody you've ever heard of, and as many as five premières in an evening.

Never before has there been a wider range of styles on offer. And, as George Bernard Shaw foresaw in 1897, that in itself causes nothing but problems for all concerned. Jonathan Harvey is a composer who has written in more genres, infusing his speech through the cadences of more languages than most. And that may well be the reason why an orchestra called Sinfonia 21 has appointed him as its composer-in-association for the next three years.

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**Tickets to a new world**

*The Times* invites readers to hear — and comment on — the best in new music

extra free ticket either for the same concert, or for the next one in the series.

The first concert, on February 8, offers a gentle introduction: Shostakovich, Britten and Ravel, together with the world premiere of Harvey's *Hidden Voice*.

The second one, on February 27, is hardcore contemporary: Kargel, Harvey, Berio and Berg, with Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* to soothe the brow at the end.

The third, on March 20, juxtaposes Beethoven and Ligeti for those who prefer a joie.

At each concert audiences will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. Sinfonia 21 is looking for feedback and, in order to stimulate and broaden the debate, *The Times* will unravel the findings and report back.

Do you, for instance, prefer concerts that juxtapose the old with the new? Do you like a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down — or is this cheating? Is this the sort of new music you like? If not, what would you prefer? Does the venue matter? And the presentation? Do you like to hear a new work more than once in a concert? Do you like the conductor to talk, or do you prefer lucid programme notes or post-performance debate?

"These are pieces we believe in," Sinfonia 21 says. "Enjoy them or hate them — but let us know..."

HILARY FINCH

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"Wonderfully funny and genuinely scary"

DAILY TELEGRAPH

First singing. Then acting. Now producing.

The versatile superstar Whitney Houston has just entered into a two-year, "non-exclusive, first-look development and production agreement" with Touchstone Pictures, part of the Disney family. This will allow her to produce films and television programmes in which she may also star. Among the projects under consideration is one based on the life of the actress Dorothy Dandridge. Houston's latest film, *Waiting to Exhale*, released in Britain this week, is a box-office hit in America.

• SOME of the biggest names in architecture have been invited to interviews at

the Victoria and Albert Museum. The museum is looking for an architect to design a new building for the Boilerhouse, adjacent to the existing museum buildings, which will provide a cultural centre for innovation and experimentation. Among those on the V&A's list are the actress Dorothy Dandridge, Houston's latest film, *Waiting to Exhale*, released in Britain this week, is a box-office hit in America.

• ONE of Britain's leading theatre companies has been saved from closure by a one-off rescue-package of £150,000 from the Arts Council. The Donmar Warehouse in

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# Why schools are failing the future

Iain Duncan Smith on what makes a good primary school

**T**HE very public argument about where Harriet Harman is sending her child to school has raged both nationally and at Westminster this week. Yet at the same time, something else occurred which is no less important and gives us an insight into the cause of the argument, the big socialist education experiment that failed.

This week saw the publication of the test results for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds which should be required reading for any parent, would-be parent, teacher or politician. Much of the argument about the education system has been around the status and quality of education in secondary schools while beneath all of that the Cinderella of the system, primary education, has to a large extent passed people's notice. Yet as the results for 11-year-olds demonstrate, it is this area which is arguably the most important and the most in need of examination. For it is here that some of the more ludicrous experiments took place as a result of the 1960s rethink of teaching methods.

Primary school lays the foundation for all that follows, for if a child enters secondary school without a basic ability in the three Rs the rest of their education is a nightmare for them. However, I fear that once the educational establishment has studied these results from the primary schools, it will be tempted to set up study groups to tell us why they are so poor — a process which would waste time and only end up telling us what most parents know already.

The secret of a good primary school is the head teacher, as I have observed on many occasions, can move mountains. It is they who direct their teachers, who create the right environment through discipline and organisation and who find ways of dealing with even the most recalcitrant parents.

There is a big gap between running a primary school and teaching in one. Selection is too often a case of "dead men's shoes" compounded by politically correct criteria pushed upon them by socialist local education authorities.

One school I know, which exists in the most difficult circumstances and in the shadow of a housing estate, illustrated this perfectly for me. The parents who send their children here are not middle-class, many are themselves failures of the system. The head teacher realised that standards relied to a great extent on the parents' involvement at home. Yet the parents were scared of exposing their shortcomings to their children or to the teachers, and their children often returned to school with incomplete homework. This particular head teacher brought the parents into the school, reminded them of the importance of their involvement, but — most im-

A motivated and focused head teacher can move mountains

The good schools have also returned to uniforms, thus helping to break peer-group pressure in the playground and instilling a sense of *esprit de corps* among pupils, staff and parents. The guiding themes which seem to exist among good schools are those of structure and discipline. They re-emphasise the core values. One primary school I know has even decided to teach Latin again to improve understanding of English.

**W**HILE this Government has started to change the system for the better, these test results show we have a great deal more to do. We knew when we arrived in Government that the system was already failing as a result of the ideological nonsense that had been rammed down teachers' throats by the education establishment and the Labour Party through the comprehensive system. So many politically motivated local authorities continued with these ideologies and if criticism is due, it is that we should have tackled them faster.

The object, therefore, must now be to press ahead with the reforms and we should introduce league tables for primary schools to identify the successful ones. This will help us to challenge and reverse all those remaining facets of the socialist experiment that failed. Only by doing this will we ensure that future test results do justice to our children.

The author is Conservative MP for Chingford. Two of his children attend a state primary school.

## Idol moment

THE THRILL of being selected to fight Harrogate for the Tories may be eclipsed by an even more exciting date in Norman Lamont's diary. After more than 20 years of worship he is to sit down at the same luncheon table as his idol — Lawrie McMenemy, the man he reveres as the most successful manager in the history of Grimsby Town Football Club.

McMenemy, known to his footballing friends as "the big fella", is now director of football at



McMenemy: local hero

Southampton FC and was manager of Lamont's beloved "Mariners" in the early 1970s when he took them to the heady heights of Fourth Division champions. This transpires to have been an event as important in the former Chancellor's life as Black Wednesday. He bumped into McMenemy, a jolly giant of a man with a good line in after-dinner jokes, at a recent party thrown by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and wasn't too starry-eyed to arrange lunch.

"He's always been the greatest hero of mine, a very successful manager of Grimsby who I have supported since I lived there," says Lamont. "I'm a great admirer of football managers. They have something in common with Chancellors in the way they get."

Lamont's loyalty, in respect of Grimsby Town, should not be doubted. One Christmas, during his Chancellorship, fans were amused to spot him wrapped up in a team scarf and cap, queuing at the turnstiles with his son. The club chairman, witnessing this scene, took pity and brought him in from the cold for a winter warmer in the directors' box.

• Some of our political dinosaurs are already extinct in the minds of

**O**f course Hattie Harman is a hypocrite. But the non-political classes (95.2 per cent of the population) are now thoroughly bored with the uproar about which school she and her husband (and son) select for the boy. Our attention span for such party games is as short as the time it takes to sink a pint of Old Peculiar in the snug bar. And anyhow, the real row is not about hypocrisy at all.

The row is actually only another final shoot-out between new Labour and old Labour in the civil war for the soul of her party, enjoyable for bystanders, though not for Ms Harman. Of course she has made the right choice in putting the education for her son above the last shibboleth of her party to test political purity. And of course salmon-bar pundits — and their representatives, backbenchers of all parties — are raging with righteous indignation and guffawing with *Schadenfreude*. But of course Hattie is a hypocrite, and of course she is right.

We English are famous through-

out the world for our hypocrisy about schools — and everything else. Why else would we call our expensive private schools "public"? Why else would we send our children straight from sucking milk-bottles away to boarding schools "for their own good", and "it never did me any harm? See who, Dad?" All other nations get rid of their children in this way only when ordered to do so by a judge. The hardest part of learning English is neither the grammar nor the pronunciation, but the subject of hypocrisy. This is the language in which "With the greatest respect..." is academic hypocrisy for "I have no respect for your opinion at all, and am about (metaphorically) to break the top off a bottle and (literally) deconstruct you".

If we are to survive in hypocrisy speak from an early age we learn the English skill of conveying our meaning in reports and references, without spelling it out. "I have never experienced a secretary like him."

"Major Blood will be greatly missed by our more adventurous science

specialists." "We don't know how we'll ever replace her" (mainly because we haven't quite worked out what she did).

Tony Baldry, our Fisheries Minister, was using postgraduate hypocrisy when he told *Fishing News* and *The World at One* that British waters out to the 12-mile limit are

right up to the shoreline were handed over to the EU under Regulation 2141/70, so they are "not negotiable" after 2002 only because there is nothing left to negotiate. This was breathtaking ministerial hypocrisy: literal truth masking utter deception.

Burns Night in this, the poet's 200th anniversary year, has been celebrated with a spate of haggis, whisky and hypocrisy. The thirstiest drunkard in the parish praised his wit. Wee Free ministers of religion admired his temperance, the biggest lechers in Rotary drooled on about his romanticism, and the most terrifying trouts acted as antifouls to desire and oxymorons as respondents on behalf of the bonny lasses.

John Major suggested that Burns would have voted Conservative against more taxes. But as an excise man, Burns might well have been in favour of more excise duties. Burns like any great artist, was a mass of contradictions, the follower of no party line. The only thing that matters is that he wrote the truest (and funniest) love lyrics.

English hypocrisy grows out of our puritanical and passionate history. In the Greek theatre — where the word started, like irony, agony, and many others — the hypocrite was a bit-player who "answered" the protagonist. His original sin was merely that he answered back.

**T**he Authorised Version, with Christ's denunciations of scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites, gave hypocrisy a bad name — although the advice about doing your good deeds in private rather than in the corners of the streets like hypocrites is sound, and should be heeded by self-publicising hustlers and ageing pop stars at charity concerts.

But decent hypocrisy is essential to civilised society. When sent an unsolicited typescript of a 1,000-page novel with a request for your honest opinion, the truth is always: "I would pay £10 if you promised never to inflict such rubbish on me again." It is kinder to be a hypocrite (and plagiarist): "I shall waste no time in reading your novel."

## A millennium fit for a Prince

The Prince of Wales is calling for spiritual renewal in the year 2000, but there is no shortage of visions

**T**he Prince of Wales wrote this week that the end of the millennium should be a time of spiritual renewal, not a materialist binge. He called for reflection rather than a "giant but essentially meaningless party". Here was a chance, he said, to restore the "enduring cultural priorities which represent a moral foundation in a world dominated by consumerism".

The Prince's abstract nouns are nowadays converted into tabloid prose at phenomenal speed. Those sent to search his rhetorical haystack for needles of meaning are forbidden to return without a story. As a result, they grasp at a talking plant, a Hindu temple or a sustainable-resource activity-centre and leave it at that. Small wonder that Thursday's papers were confused by the Prince's musings in *Perspectives in Architecture* magazine. "Make it a matter of the spirit," said a desperate headline in *The Guardian*. The tabloids gave up: "You mosque is joking" said the *Daily Star*, "You lost the pottery, Charles" said *The Sun*. The heir to the Throne is a splendid parsonal Midas. All he touches turns to silver.

In my experience, a vision is a commodity nobody claims to have

but demands to be "offered", usually so as to reject it as insufficiently Utopian. In American politics, an obscure concept is the notion that it has been expanded into "the vision thing", adding nothing in the process. Many pleas for millennial visions suffer from what philosophers call eschatological fantasy, defined by Roger Scruton as "the promise of an eventual release from earthly miseries by an enduring security, preferably without political maxims afterwards".

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The great eschatological novel *The Man Without Qualities* by Robert Musil, written at the start of this century, has its hero Ulrich lost and searching for moral certainty amid technological and social revolution. The search draws him, not unlike the Prince of Wales, into a web of schemes for celebrating the Austro-Hungarian Jubilee. A more primitive, and perhaps relevant, example is the Polynesian cargo cult, a belief that a day is at hand when outsiders will arrive to shower gifts on worshippers.

The Prince suggests that the millennium should be the occasion for a cosmic new year's resolution. Many of us might sympathise. But what does this mean? Insofar as it can be pinned down, the proposal is empirically not that portrayed by Musil's public commissioners. It is not "the tumult and the shouting", "the Captain and the Kings" of Kipling's *Recessional*, but "An humble and a contrite heart... Let us forget, lest we forget."

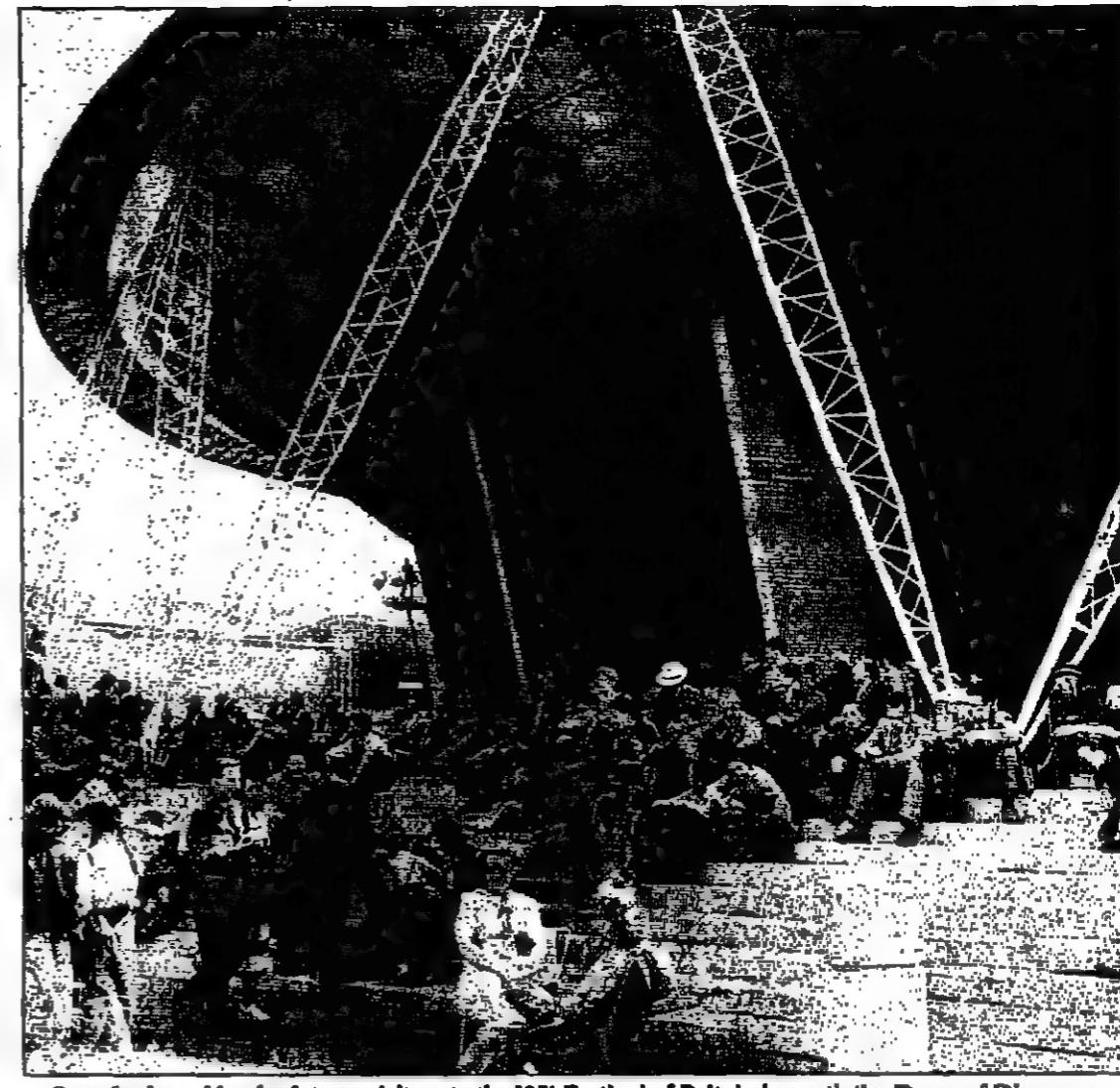
The Prince wants the millennium to eschew materialism, to be something that "originate in our hearts and not our heads", since it is the "intuitive powers of the heart that lie

at the root of all spiritual experience".

At no sooner does the Prince enunciate his aversion to materialism than he asks for material.

**H**e wants the Millennium Commission in which I declare an interest as a member of it to give grants to his favoured causes. He may want a spiritual hermitage, but it is not that of Francis of Assisi, more that of Catherine the Great or the Hindu temple at Neasden. He wants millennium money to go to church, chapel, mosque and temple, and to architectural, environmental and urban renewal projects.

The irony is that whenever the Prince gives substance to his vision, it is precisely the remit which the Millennium Commission has given itself. Running down the list of proposals we find a Scottish forest, a national cycleway network, an architecture centre in Manchester, an ecology park in Doncaster, the renovation of Banksy power station, parks, community halls and coastal paths without number. The commission is currently the embodiment of the Prince's oft-stated plea that new public investment should correct the



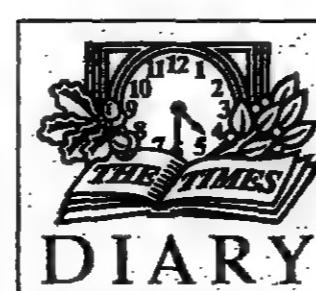
Overshadowed by the future: visitors to the 1951 Festival of Britain beneath the Dome of Discovery

environmental ravages of the past and nudge the nation towards what he would call a sustainable future.

There is a material cost to this, perhaps even a "materialism" cost, if that is how the Prince sees the lottery. But spirituality comes free of charge. Bricks and mortar cost money and money must be paid for. The Prince cites churches and cathedrals, which are already receiving lottery money.

In other words, the money might be public but the visions were to be many and private. The commission was to be receptive. This approach to the millennium was communitarian, non-elitist and "bottom-up". It delegated vision to the public and the bias of support reflects the public's response.

To an intellectual grandee this might seem a pity. A dose of directional elitism is useful in getting public projects built in just four years (and may yet be needed). But I am not sure the strategy was wrong. As the Prince's effort shows, a great national vision to mark the turn of the clock is a chimera. If there is to be a millennial rebirth, it will come not from princes or governments or commissions, but from within individuals and their communities. I prefer Kipling's pluralism: "There are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays. And every single one-of-them-is-right."



the young. The new, very green, puppet co-ordinator on Spitting Image was sent to collect the latest version of Arthur Scargill from a storeroom. "What does he look like?" she asked. The producer, Giles Pilbrow, told her: "You can't miss him, he's an old, balding, left-wing Labour politician with a grubby grey suit." She returned with Neil Kinnock.

**R**obbed

THE bargain of all Burns Night suppers was enjoyed by students at The Globe public house in Dundee on Thursday. The publican, Jack Cooper, was offering a square deal of haggis, tatties, neeps and "a drink of your choice" for £2 a head. Then law students spotted a bottle of the exclusive Louis Treize brandy, Churchill's favourite breakfast tipple, on the gantry and demanded the fine cognac, worth £25 a

glass, as their chosen drink. "I'd forgotten all about that bottle," wails Cooper. "I couldn't believe it when they asked for it but they started going on about the Trade Descriptions Act. I needed a measure myself to steady my nerves."

• As Tory chiefs continue to agonise over the risk of further defections, they should reassess themselves that a good dinner heals all. Among the most prominent guests at the 25th anniversary dinner on Wednesday night of the foundation of Nick's Diner — the dining club for Tories to which Sir Nicholas Scott gave his name — was Sir Christopher Brockbank-Fowler, the notorious defector to the SDP in the early Eighties. Perhaps



Emma Nicholson and Alan Howard will be back at the Tory trough ten years from now.

**Hot favourite**

THEY'VE found an ingenious method of warming up jockeys during the freeze at Newbury racecourse — a mechanical horse is being installed in the changing room. The contraption, known as a "ride away", aims to get cold muscles warmed up for the first race.

"All other athletes warm up and it does seem strange that we have not seen a mechanical horse at a racecourse before," says Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical officer. "I have often heard jockeys say that they are just getting warmed up by the second race — hopefully this will be a thing of the past now."

**Change of step**

THE Princess of Wales' daily bathe with photographers and admirers at the Harbour Club in Chelsea may finally have driven her to look for somewhere else to tone her thighs. Earlier this week she was spotted sniffing around a rival establishment, Holmes Place Health Club, in Ealing.

**X-rated**

LADY COGGAN, the doughty wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan, is prompting some furious soul-

ose sex. It is where she enjoyed post-workout fruit juices with Will Carling and Christopher Whalley, the property developer.

Staff at Holmes Place, perhaps overwhelmed by the prospect of a camp of freelance photographers setting up outside, were reluctant to discuss the Princess yesterday.

**Straight Man**

OFFSTAGE alarm on the Isle of Man as plans for the first production of a play by Joe Orton. Although the Manx Parliament relaxed its stiff laws on homosexuality four years ago, many citizens are still horrified at any mention of the subject. The proposal by the Joe Orton Society to present *Entertaining Mr Sloane* has not gone down well.

"I think an Orton play would be received very badly here," says the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Right Rev Noel Jones. Risqué theatre has not had a happy history on the island. Ten years ago the High Bailiff banned *Steaming*, a play for an all-female cast by Neil Dunn set inside a Turkish bath.

searching among residents of Wincanton over plans to retain three stone crosses on a cinema being converted from a disused church. The tier of 18-rated films planned for the picture house are deemed unsuitable. "Christians hold the cross in deep reverence and we shall be very sad to see it used falsely in our splendid city with all its church history and background," says Lady Coggan. The dispute looks set to get bitter. The church is Grade II listed and English Heritage sides with the cinema company.

P.H.S



## HILLARY AND CHERIE

Labour lessons from the Washington jury room

Americans were treated last night to the shocking spectacle of a First Lady subpoenaed to give evidence before her peers. This was not the Republican-dominated Senate Whitewater committee but a grand jury, the beginning of a criminal procedure. Although the jurors are more likely than not to have Democrat sympathies, that may not comfort Mrs Clinton very much. Whatever evidence is presented against the woman once dubbed "Saint Hillary", her unprecedented position in the dock cannot be separated from her anomalous position in the White House. The repercussions do not stop on the Atlantic's far shores.

When Mrs Clinton — a highly successful lawyer and, by repartee, cleverer than her husband — first started to campaign nationally at his side, she seemed to many younger American women as a perfect role model. This First Lady would be allowed to do more than smile at the cameras, show off her floral arrangements or work on personnel issues behind the scenes. This was to be a working partnership — "buy one, get one free" in her husband's words. Some Americans voting for Bill Clinton did so at least as much on Hillary's behalf.

He was true to his word, even if he had to tone down the partnership message in the course of the campaign. Hillary was given one of America's knottiest problems to unravel: the provision of healthcare. While feminists cheered, more cautious souls foresaw the perils. A wife cannot be sacked; and even if she decides to "spend more time with her family", that puts no more distance between her and the levers of power.

Mrs Clinton's attempt to emulate her heroine, Eleanor Roosevelt, were disastrous. The healthcare plan, conceived in secret, was quickly revealed as unworkable. Then began another of Hillary's regular reventions: as mother, ambassador and "First Lady of Health". That was soon scuppered by more revelations about old Arkansas business deals, alleged cover-ups and favouring of cronies for White House contracts, which led finally to yesterday's

grand jury appearance. Mrs Clinton's hypocrisy has contributed solidly to her fate. She and her husband campaigned against the excess profit culture of the Eighties yet unaccountably managed to convert \$1,000 to \$100,000 in the space of nine months. They campaigned against sleaze; yet she had worked for a savings and loan institution involved in disreputable property deals and may have been less than frank about exactly how much work she did. They claimed to stand up for those who worked hard and played by the rules, yet she sacked seven well-regarded members of the White House travel office and replaced them with friends and relatives.

But the hostility towards her has been compounded by the unease which many Americans feel about a First Lady being both a career woman and a political adviser to her husband. This is what must alarm Cherie Blair. If Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, Britain will experience the same step-change that took place in Washington. Out will go the wife who loves charity and opera; in will come a former parliamentary candidate, campaigner for equal rights and successful lawyer. The parallels should make anyone wary.

Of course Mrs Blair — or Ms Booth as she likes to be known — has been found guilty neither of hypocrisy nor sleaze. And in Britain's parliamentary system, it would be hard for her husband to give her as much political power as Mr Clinton gave his wife. Nor does she seem to want it. But potential pitfalls abound. Under the "cab-rank" principle which governs barristers' briefs, there would be occasions when even her legal practice provided embarrassments.

The world has changed, and Britain will have to come to terms with Prime Ministers' wives having careers. But, as the first of her kind, Ms Booth would come under great pressure and be subject to criticism however much or little she says. This is unfortunate but probably unavoidable. Ms Booth may be asked to blaze a trail for her successors — and through prickly branches.

## PRIMARY POWER

Tests and vouchers should improve standards

The state of our schools has been thrown into sharper relief after a week which can leave few feeling complacent. The electorate has been left with an enduring impression of Labour's incoherence; but there is little room for Tory satisfaction when 16 years of reform still leaves half of our 11-year-olds unable to reach the required standard in English and maths. The failure rests not with our children but with methods of managing schools and teaching pupils that need, not least, more radical change.

Parents nostalgic for traditional practice, and teachers stretched by innovation, might yearn for a period of consolidation. That would be an abdication of responsibility towards the children whom the system fails.

Were it not for one bitterly contested change, the tests themselves, we would still be ignorant of how poorly served pupils are. The self-interest of the teachers who opposed the tests does not make it easy to sympathise with the profession; but because many were wrong in the past that does not mean they are all in error now. Their suggestions for refining the examinations deserve attention if a successful innovation is to become entrenched. Tests not only diagnose failure, they can help to remedy it. Improved results in the longer-established tests for seven and 14-year-olds proves what any honest teacher has to admit: examinations concentrate minds and scrutiny improves standards.

To invest in pupils, not the system, is to encourage diversity and excellence in pre-school education. That is a lesson too important to be restricted to the nursery. If standards are to be driven upwards, the engine of change has to be informed parental choice. Ministers should hasten to give parents through tests and vouchers as much power as possible now; a future government could reverse the revolution.

## GREY POLAR BEARS

Forget the sunbelt: find a bracing old age in Essex

The Essex coast, it seems, is scheduled to become the new Florida. As our health correspondent reports on page 8, the United Kingdom's first retirement lager for veterans of the Third Age is to be built there. Like similar "sun cities" Florida and South Africa, it is to be exclusively for those stroked as grey panthers by estate agents' euphemism.

So it will have hundreds of "close-care apartments", a large nursing home, a 70-bed hospital, shops and services of all sorts, and a "therapeutic golf course for the mature golfer". Electric rakes, by the bunkers? Shrimping-nets to retrieve balls? Inhabitants need never leave Thorpe Hall again except to the world outside, the nearest town for all ages is Frinton-on-Sea, which bans fish-and-chip shops and may be rather less lively than this new "lifetime care" complex at Thorpe le Soken.

Whether the Utopian idea of happy-happy ghettos will catch on in Britain is going to be tested. As many 80-year-old Britons as Americans may feel like 20-year-olds. But the British grey wolves may prefer to have some 20-year-olds around. To judge from cruises and blue-rinse bus tours, the British in their maturity are less team-players than Americans. Although, sadly, increasing numbers of our old are increasingly shut

away out of sight, out of mind, in nursing homes, the British ideal is still to try to keep the seven ages of man together, to take in the other ages' baby-sitting, spectacle-searching and changing of the video.

And the choice of Essex for Britain's first sun city may be surprising to some. The weathermen may calculate that East Anglia receives more than the national average of sunshine under its Constable skies. But all East Coast resorts face facts as well as the North Sea. Some even advertise themselves as "bracing", with pictures of ruddy fishermen in oilskins and sou'westers. As a poet once advised outsiders, "the bleak flat, sedgy shores of Essex shun, Where fog perpetual veils the winter sun". Unkind, and only partially true.

Thorpe le Soken does not have the blue seas and cloudless skies of Cloud-Cuckoo-Land. But Florida sun causes wrinkles, and worse those who would not be called wrinkles, beware. Essex weather refreshes the juices better than withering sun. From Dickens to Graham Swift, from Essex thatches and flint towers to the roaring North Sea shingle, Essex men and women have a reputation for longevity and red-faced stubbornness. The county is a fine choice for our first sun city. But as a precaution, the residents should take their thermal leg-warmers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Failure to tackle global warming

From Dr R. Russell Jones

Sir, The findings of the British Antarctic Survey (report, January 29), that over half the Antarctic ice sheets have disintegrated during the past 50 years, provides further evidence of global warming and verifies the computer models which match current temperature trends precisely and predict far greater changes in the next century.

Worldwide, 1995 was the hottest year on record. Yet society's response to these events is curiously ambivalent. Water companies claim that severe droughts are freak occurrences which are only expected to occur once every 300 years. In fact they will become increasingly common. The UK Government argues unsuccessfully for a 10 per cent reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, whilst failing to admit that a reduction of over 60 per cent is needed just to stabilise atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide.

In Coventry (reports, January 18; letter, January 24) the Church celebrates 100 years of the motor car, the fastest-growing contributor to global warming, and possibly the single greatest threat to God's creation.

The ecosystems which sustain life are extremely vulnerable, and our priorities will need to change radically if they are to survive.

Yours faithfully,  
R. RUSSELL JONES,  
St Thomas' Hospital,  
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.  
January 25.

### Monetary union

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The Spanish Foreign Minister, Carlos Westendorp, who was chairman of the Reflection Group which prepared the way for this year's inter-governmental conference (IGC), has said that it would be ill-advised to proceed with the 1999 timetable for economic and monetary union (report, January 24). If the timetable does have to be revised then that will require amending the Maastricht treaty (as will the change of name from ecu to euro and any changes to the ERM).

It is therefore important that we include the whole question of economic and monetary union in the forthcoming White Paper on the IGC (report, January 24). It would be extraordinary if we did not declare the principles behind our opt-out on the single currency, given the fact that the purpose of the single currency is to create political union — an objective the Prime Minister has already rejected.

Seior Westendorp said last year that every aspect of the Community can be renegotiated at the IGC. In addition to the single currency, agriculture, fisheries, the budget and the European Court should head the agenda and therefore also be addressed in the White Paper.

Our present problems stem from the fact that at Maastricht we allowed the other member states to go ahead with a legal framework which we agreed we would not veto. We must not make the same mistake again. The White Paper must provide the basis for a serious debate on this country's national interests and how they can best be served. Without this and without a proper renegotiation of Maastricht we will be left with uncertainty and instability, which will be in nobody's interest.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL CASH (Chairman),  
The European Foundation,  
6 Pall Mall, SW1.

### Living languages

From Mr Norman Berdichevsky

Sir, Your editorial, "Silent thunder" (January 17), contrasts Esperanto — "without a people to sustain it... the property of a few" — with the proud struggle of the Welsh people to preserve their language.

The latest census study in 1991 reports that almost 550,000 people are able either to speak, read or write Welsh (A *Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991*, J. Aitchison and H. Carter, University of Wales Press, 1994).

This accounts for the fact that Welsh does not appear in the lists of the principal languages of the world published every year in *The World Almanac and Book of Facts* (Scripps Howard). This same reference work has consistently listed Esperanto and recently upped its estimate of users from one to two million.

The failure to acknowledge Esperanto as a living language is particularly glaring in the English-speaking world precisely because English has, as you put it, "helped to sweep so many other languages out of the way".

Esperanto is a non-ethnic and non-territorial language and therefore not very visible, but it is sustained by an international community of speakers who have diffused it throughout the world over 100 years. Esperanto is alive and growing, especially in China, Japan and Korea, which may account for the myopic view frequently expressed in Britain that it has "faded".

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN BERDICHEVSKY,  
69 Methuen Road,  
Edgware, Middlesex.  
January 18.

### Understanding forgiveness, and trying to practise it

From Canon Paul Oestreicher

Sir, Does Matthew Parris (article, January 22) really want to know "how on earth" to practise forgiveness? There are more than enough examples. Nor do Christians have any monopoly. Like others, they often fail to practise what they preach.

Forgiveness is the banishing of bitterness for wrongs suffered and the refusal to pay back evil with evil. It has nothing to do with the banishing of memory. "Forgive and forget" is no Christian slogan. "Remember and forgive" is.

For Christians, Jesus sets the pattern in praying for his own executioners: "Father forgive them..." This was the response of Gordon Wilson when IRA killers murdered his daughter. This was the response of Dr Sheila Cassidy to her Chilean torturers. Forgiveness, offered and sought, in small things and great, is the love bond that holds marriages together. Forgiveness does not condone evil, but refuses to be embittered by it. It breaks the vicious circle of hate.

The "hurt" file is indeed "not open for edit", but the victim's bloodstream need not be poisoned by it. The recognition of our need to forgive was, this week, at the heart of the prayer of 13-year-old Unity Lawrence (report, January 23) at the memorial service for her murdered father: "May we find the strength to overcome anger with love." Hard, yes, but possible and liberating.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL OESTREICHER  
(Director of International Ministry,  
Coveney Cathedral,  
7 Priory Row,  
Coveney, West Midlands.  
January 25.)

### From Mr Richard Ritchie

Sir, In his strictures upon the Christian concept of forgiveness Matthew Parris is coming perilously close to

### Union stakes in new Labour society

From Mr Robert Harvey

Sir, John Monks ("The TUC's stake in Mr Blair", January 17) is looking forward to a Tony Blair government which will help to rebuild the unions' influence, in order to "make this country more competitive, community-minded and caring".

These are presumably the same unions whose "competitiveness" nearly bled the printing industry to death ten years ago (having already succeeded in doing so with the car industry), and whose "community spirit" and "caring" nature in the 1970s left the dead unburied and the lights flickering for only three days a week.

Of course, I'm forgetting, that was a long time ago, and they've completely changed. Frankly, I agree with Gillian Shepherd, whom you quote on the same day, that the only thing to have changed would be the substitution of smoked salmon and dry white wine for beer and sandwiches at No 10.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT HARVEY,  
Forest House, Birmingham Road,  
Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire.  
January 17.

### From Professor Roger Dyson

Sir, The answer to the questions raised on your letters page (January 5, 11, 13, 17) as to the meaning of Tony Blair's "stakeholder society" is, in my view, factual and quite straightforward.

John Prescott has pledged to make

Yours sincerely,  
ROGER DYSON  
(Director,  
Clinical Management Unit,  
Suite 1, 18 Darwin Building,  
Keele University,  
Keele, Staffordshire.  
January 19.)

### Ducks and cormorants

From Mr Peter Giffard

Sir, There is a good deal of confusion about the ruddy duck (letter, January 22). Not everyone sees it as a pest to be exterminated. I have visitors here on open days who go for a walk around the lake created by Capability Brown and come back and ask what is the lovely little duck with the blue beak. Some people only come in order to see them. They are not bird experts but ordinary townspersons here to enjoy the countryside.

I wish English Nature and the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture would get together and give as much consideration to the plight of the fish in my lake as they have been to the white-headed duck.

The lake has never been stocked with fish, at least to my knowledge,

### Austen and Saltram

From Mr Chris Viveash

Sir, Jane Austen had a connection with Saltram House in Devon long before the filming there of *Sense and Sensibility* (sic) and her second wife, Frances Talbot, was thought by Mary Russell Mitford to have written *Pride and Prejudice*. Saltram House is appropriate, indeed, as a film location for an Austen novel.

The 1st Earl of Morley (1772-1840), formerly Lord Boringdon, was an interesting man. He had two wives, each of them credited with having written one or more of Jane Austen's novels. (It will be remembered that Jane Austen's name never appeared

more likely to lead to peace and happiness for both parties. Is not this, therefore, the better and more gracious course of action and is this not what is meant by forgiving one another? For, unless we do, I believe that God cannot forgive us.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY CRESWELL,  
Warren Wood,  
Wimland Road, Faygate, Sussex.  
January 23.

From Mr Richard Gunning

Sir, Christians are not required to like their enemies, nor to *forgive* wrongs done. No person is that perfect, or stupid. Christians are, though, expected to refrain from retaliation, seek reconciliation (where allowed) and not keep score.

Of course, all Christians fall short of these ideals, for which they need ongoing forgiveness. Mr Parris may also be forgiven for getting it wrong.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD GUNNING,  
38 Sprucedale Gardens,  
Wallington, Surrey.  
January 24.

From Mr Nigel Draper

Sir, Matthew Parris says his attitude is "let bygones be bygones" and yet he finishes by telling of his reluctance to make contact with a neglected friend because of a "small but signal hurt" from a few decades ago. What a difference to the Gospel of Jesus who says "I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation iii, 20), and waits for you. Matthew — no reluctance on his part even though you continually hurt him. That is forgiveness.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL DRAPER,  
Flat 3, San Remo Mansions,  
San Remo Parade,  
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.  
January 23.

### Sport on TV

From Mr R. R. Kimpton

Sir, Why now allow the BBC to advertise during sports programmes (report, January 18), restricting the use of the revenue raised to the financing of further sports programmes?

Objections to BBC advertising relating to the integrity of the programme content would not apply to sporting events, and the danger of a resultant surfeit of sport may be less of a problem than an increase in the licence fee.

Yours faithfully,  
REG KIMPTON,  
Clifton House,  
67 London Road,  
Whitchurch, Hampshire.  
January 18.

From Mr Anthony Morris

Sir, Will the Government, in the current debate as to whether pay-per-view and subscription television should be allowed to bid and charge for the rights to certain sporting events, also consider prohibiting the sale of tickets at the gate?

In my opinion such extension of the principle of free access is no more illogical than the extension of the box office by means



## COURT CIRCULAR

### SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

January 26 By Command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Rabindranath Permanand at 42 Belgrave Square, London SW1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by His Excellency Mr James Cowling (High Commissioner in Maseru) at the State Funeral of King Moshoeshoe II which was held at Thaba Bosiu this morning.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**

January 26 The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning opened the new Venture Centre, Waterloo Lane, Cromford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Bather).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, afterwards visited Cromford Mill to view restoration work, to see how alternative uses are being found for parts of the old mill buildings and to launch Business in the Community's Mills Initiative.

### Royal engagements

**TOMORROW:** The Prince of Wales, as Vice-President of the National Trust, will join Mrs Rosemary Verney in delivering a lecture about the gardens at Houghton Hall and will attend a reception at Burton Open House, Burton, Derbyshire, at 7.00 in aid of the National Trust in the Peak District.

The Duchess of Kent will present the Evening Standard British Film awards at the Savoy Hotel at 7.05.

### Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00

**Tomorrow:** The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL:** 11 HC. 10.15 E. Living Waters. The Provost, Rev E.S. God in my heart (Rutter). Hall Gladding (Light Wood).

**BELFAST CATHEDRAL:** 10 M. Confessio Domini (Confessio). 5 E. Psalms 103. 1-10. 10 Choral E. Give us the miter (Louviers).

**BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL:** 9 MP. 9.15 HC. 10.30 Choral E. The Lamb (Bach). 10.45 Choral E. (Durufle), Rev G. Grimley. 1 Choral E & Cards. A ceremony of cards.

**BRISTOL CATHEDRAL:** College: Green: 7.40 M. 11 HC. 10 Choral E. Call to remembrance (Farrar). 11.15 Choral E. (Dunstall). The Chancellor. 11.30 Choral E. (Ball). I saw a new heaven (Ballinot). Canon P. Johnson.

**CARLTON CATHEDRAL:** 9.30 M. 11 HC. Rev R. Hardy. 11 E. Choral Mass Salve Intemerata (Tallis). 12.30 Choral E. The Archdeacon of Bristol in Full Vestments. Dr M. Chandler.

**CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 M. 11 HC. 0.30 M. 11 Choral E. (Bruckner). The Dead: E. V. Wilkins. 11.15 Choral E. (Britten).

**CARLISLE CATHEDRAL:** 10 M. 8.30 HC. 10.45 Choral E. Come to him (Jullian). The Vicar Probus.

**CHARTERHOUSE CATHEDRAL:** 9.30 M. 11 HC. Rev G. Tomlinson. 11.15 Choral E. (Ball). I saw a new heaven (Ballinot).

**CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 9.45 M. 11 HC. 10.30 Choral E. (Ball). 11.15 Choral E. Lord have mercy (Moult). The Queen's Guard mounts at the Temple of Christ (Ball).

**CHURCH OF CHRIST CATHEDRAL:** 9.45 M. 11 HC. 10.30 Choral E. Lord have mercy (Ball). The Queen's Guard mounts at the Temple of Christ (Ball).

**CHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 9.45 M. 11 HC. 10.30 Choral E. (Ball). 11.15 Choral E. Lord have mercy (Moult).

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## NEWS

## Fresh trial for Kevin Maxwell

■ Kevin Maxwell faces the prospect of another long trial after the Serious Fraud Office announced it was pressing ahead with further charges against him. The decision came seven days after his acquittal on charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners of shares worth £122 million, and he immediately denounced it as a political move in the run-up to a general election. .... Page 1

## Hillary Clinton faces grand jury

■ Hillary Clinton arrived at a federal courthouse to become the first President's wife to be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury. She was called to explain the disappearance of records of her legal work for the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair. .... Page 1

## Writ for Duchess

The Duchess of York faced fresh embarrassment over her finances as a former friend issued a High Court writ demanding she repay a \$100,000 loan. .... Page 1

## Frozen Britain

Below-freezing temperatures and Arctic winds closed roads across Britain. .... Page 1

## Jail settlement

Seven prisoners claiming they were mentally traumatised by riots in Strangeways jail, reached out-of-court settlements of almost £5,000 each. .... Page 3

## Retirement cabins

The first US-style retirement village for almost 1,000 people is planned in Essex, complete with golf links and log cabins. .... Page 8

## Act of cruelty

Cruelty to hedgehogs, badgers and frogs will soon be punishable by jail under a Bill rushed through the Commons. .... Page 4

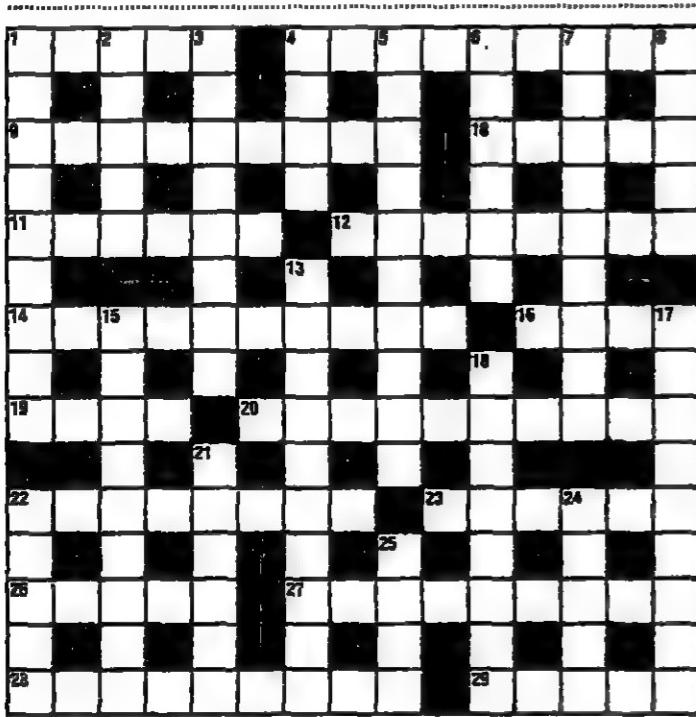
## Survival is no picnic for teddy bears

■ The evolution of the teddy bear is determined by the survival of the cutest, according to psychologists. Since the first teddies were made, they have evolved by degrees from long-snouted animals into cute, snub-nosed creatures. .... Page 7

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,075

**BERLICK** A limited edition, 1990 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 480, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



## ACROSS

- 1 Bookmaker whose aides keep him in extras (5).
- 4 Officer mauling warship changes direction (6).
- 9 Boxes in novel, putting condition to gangster (9).
- 10 Deviate from perpendicular (5).
- 11 Choice cut from right inside animal (6).
- 12 Once again make to relax (5).
- 13 Showing lung trouble, roughly speaking? Pin on cigarette (6).
- 16 Impishly seek one: in school (4).
- 19 Pleased with oneself, putting trees back in (4).
- 20 Sailing carelessly in the sea — not shipshape (6).
- 22 International group giving dangerous laconic advice to tourists? (5).
- 23 Gas that's found in the blood (6).
- 26 Live in Lincoln? I would if.
- 27 Telling a popular leader repeatedly to head royal? (9).
- 28 It gets him moving with the utmost force (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,069

**WINDOWSHOP ATOP**  
E O N T E B E I  
P E A C E M A K E R S A W N  
T H U L L I A M S  
S P O K E S P E R S O N  
D W M A G C R E  
I M I T A T I O N O R I G I N E  
S N N N G F R D  
C H E S S T R E A D M I L  
I T H S P F F E  
P L A Y I N G S P I E L  
L S P R H A B T  
I O T A F A M I L Y T R E S  
N E I S E N  
E A P L N E T H I R M O S T

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D C Shering, Bowlish, Shropshire; R M Pawson, Redcar, Cleveland; A McFer, Wansford, London; J Hunter, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire; J Borsberry, Pitville Lane, Cheltenham.

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Indian soldiers march in Delhi yesterday to mark the country's 47th anniversary of independence. Page 11

## Scottish dinosaurs

Dinosaur footprints believed to be the first discovered in Scotland have been found in Skye. .... Page 5

## Church message

Britain is becoming religiously illiterate, according to the new Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres. .... Pages 1, 10

## EMU debate

France's debate on European monetary union intensified when Philippe Séguin, Speaker of the National Assembly, insisted postponing plans for a single currency would not be a disaster. .... Page 21

## Grey Polar bears

Essex is a fine choice for our first sun city but residents should take their leg-warmers. .... Page 21

## Practising forgiveness

Mr Major's place in history will be determined by his handling of the Irish crisis. .... The New York Times

## OPINION

Hillary and Cherie: The hostility towards Hillary Clinton has been compounded by the unease which many Americans feel about a First Lady being both a career woman and a political adviser to her husband. This is what must alarm Cherie Blair. .... Page 21

Primary power: The methods of managing schools and teaching pupils need not stability, but still more radical change. .... Page 21

Simon Jenkins: Centuries are astronomically insignificant. The first day of the new millennium will be no different from the last of the old. Why the fuss? .... Page 20

Philip Howard: We English are famous throughout the world for our hypocrisy about schools — and everything else. .... Page 20

David Hockney: Centuries are astronomically insignificant. The first day of the new millennium will be no different from the last of the old. Why the fuss? .... Page 20

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## BUSINESS

Sainsbury: The supermarket group warned the stockmarket that profits in the financial year would suffer because of the price war and advertising costs. .... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 0.4 points to close at 3734.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.1 after a fall from \$1.548 to \$1.5028 but a rise from DM2.2369 to DM2.2414. .... Page 28

Football: Newcastle United hope that Fausto Asprilla, the Colombian international, will be available for them in a fortnight. .... Page 48

Tennis: Boris Becker is to meet Michael Chang in the men's singles final at the Australian Open. Chang beat Andre Agassi, the world No 1, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6, in a one-sided semi-final. .... Page 44

Racing: One Man, the antepost favourite, will not race before the Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 14. Gordon Richards will school him at Carlisle or Newcastle. .... Page 45

Radio Sport stands to be one of the main beneficiaries when the BBC's Digital Audio Broadcasting service expands over the next two years. .... Page 48

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## SATURDAY TIMES

## MAGAZINE

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The Art of betrayal: Paul Cezanne's closest friend, Emile Zola, soon became his greatest critic. Richard Cork reports. .... Page 24



WEEKEND

Catch the sun: The house and car that cost nothing to run. .... Pages 1 & 3

Gardening: Using climbers to create pillars of colour. .... Page 4

Outdoors: Why wolves may roam the Highlands. .... Page 12

Travel: Hiring a ski guide; home exchanges. .... Pages 16-21

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The weekly magazine for young Times readers

Boarding school: abroad with the snowboarding Brits. .... Page 6

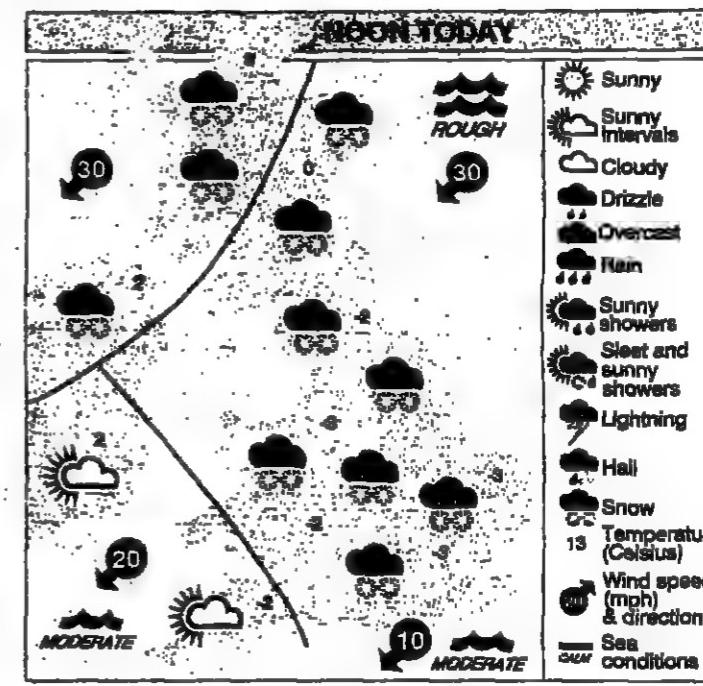
Win a snowboarding kit or a VIP day at the Snow-Dome. .... Page 3

Writers wanted: your chance to join the young reporters team. .... Page 8

The seven-day guide to television and radio

Cover story: the curious world of the children's charm pageant in *Painted Babies*. BBC2, 9.30pm

Show business: Ruby Wax meets Imelda Marcos, Sunday, BBC1, 9.55pm



## FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a very cold day with temperatures below freezing in many places. There will be frequent snow showers in eastern areas, where the snow will be blown around in fresh winds. Western parts will have more scattered showers with some brighter spells.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have some sunshine and just a few snow showers. Eastern Scotland will be cold with frequent snow showers.

Wales: mainly dry. Some snow. Wind northeast moderate to fresh. Max -1C (32F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central Scotland, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: mostly cloudy. Some snow showers. Wind east to northeast fresh. Max -3 to -2C (27 to 28F).

Ile of Man, N Ireland: a few snow showers. Wind east to northeast fresh. Max 1 or 2C (34 to 36F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyl, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: sunny intervals. Scattered snow showers. Wind east to northeast. Max 2 or 3C (36 to 37F).

E England, NE England, Borders, Midlands, E Midlands, W Midlands: mainly cloudy. Some snow showers. Wind northeast moderate. Max -3C (27F).

Outlook: staying cold. Snow showers especially in the east.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm, b=bright, c=cloudy, d=drizzle, dr=dust storm; ds=dust; f=fair; g=gale; h=hot

Foggy: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Light rain: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Moderate rain: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Heavy rain: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Very heavy rain: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Thunderstorms: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Wind: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Very strong wind: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Storm: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Violent storm: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Blizzard: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Very violent blizzard: b BE bright, h bright, c cloud, d drizzle, dr dust storm; ds dust; f fair; g gale; h hot

Temperature: °C (°F)

Wind speed: mph (km/h)

Sea conditions: 0-10 (calm); 11-15 (light air); 16-20 (moderate air); 21-25 (strong air); 26-30 (high air); 31-35 (very high air); 36+ (hurricane force)

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, call 24 hours a day 0800 40 40 40 followed by the road code

London 0800 40 40 40, Essex 0800 40 40 40, Kent 0800 40 40 40, Merseyside 0800 40 40 40, North East 0800 40 40 40, Scotland 0800 40 40 40, Wales 0800 40 40 40, Northern Ireland 0800

SATURDAY



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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

## Sainsbury shares hit by profit warning

BY SARAH BAGNALL

**SAINSBURY'S** warned shareholders yesterday that it expects its first drop in profits in 20 years as a public company.

David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket group, said that full-year profits would fail to match City expectations, sending the shares 21½p lower to 389p as analysts slashed their forecasts.

In the past year Sainsbury's market share has been eroded and the food retailer has been ousted from the number one slot by Tesco. In an attempt to reinstate itself as Britain's largest supermarket group Sainsbury is to invest millions in customer service and advertising.

Mr Sainsbury said: "Our commitment to enhancing customer service and price competitiveness, together with increased advertising, will reduce profit in the current financial year below earlier expectations."

Sainsbury has hired an extra 2,500 staff in a bid to improve customer service in stores. This will add about £10 million to second-half costs, while increased advertising aimed at communicating more effectively the group's pricing position will cost a further £10 million. In addition, the second-half gross margin is expected to slide as Sainsbury pushes ahead with its pricing promotions.

Analysts cut their forecasts for profits for the year to March 12 from as high as £925 million to about £760 million. The fall in share price was limited, however, by the City's belief that Sainsbury finally appears to be tackling its

problems. Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, said: "If there is such a thing as a good profit warning then this is one because they are investing in areas that need improving."

Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, has cut his forecast from £787 million, which was at the bottom of the range of forecasts, to £760 million. He said it was too early to tell whether more action would be needed to rectify Sainsbury's position.

Mr Sainsbury said the group's objective was to reclaim the title as Britain's largest food retailer but that the goal would not be achieved by the end of the year.

Like-for-like sales rose 4.5 per cent in the six weeks to January 13, a pick-up in activity that helped underlying sales rise by 3 per cent in the 16 weeks to mid-January. This compares to Tesco's 8.5 per cent advance in like-for-like sales over a similar period.

The supermarket business accounts for about 80 per cent of group sales.

Mr Sainsbury said: "We had a record Christmas and importantly the sales growth has moved up a notch. So we are moving in the right direction." The group intends to introduce further promotions. The chairman said: "I am extremely optimistic about our competitive position. Customers have responded well to our January Savers promotion and so we intend to extend it. We have done promotions in the past but none at this strength in either price or communication."

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Mr Sainsbury said: "We had a record Christmas and importantly the sales growth has moved up a notch. So we are moving in the right direction." The group intends to introduce further promotions. The chairman said: "I am extremely optimistic about our competitive position. Customers have responded well to our January Savers promotion and so we intend to extend it. We have done promotions in the past but none at this strength in either price or communication."

Analysts cut their forecasts

for profits for the year to

March 12 from as high as £925

million to about £760 million.

The fall in share price was

limited, however, by the City's

belief that Sainsbury finally

appears to be tackling its

problems.

Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, said: "If there is such a thing as a good profit warning then this is one because they are investing in areas that need improving."

Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, has cut his forecast from £787 million, which was at the bottom of the range of forecasts, to £760 million. He said it was too early to tell whether more action would be needed to rectify Sainsbury's position.

Mr Sainsbury said the group's objective was to reclaim the title as Britain's largest food retailer but that the goal would not be achieved by the end of the year.

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## Realisations from Maxwell's private empire top £700m

The Maxwell affair rumbles inexorably on. A week ago the headlines proclaimed "Maxwell Brothers cleared". Such was the outcome of the 13-day trial presided over by Lord Justice Phillips: a case that is estimated to have cost taxpayers the thick end of £30 million. Today heralds somewhat different headlines. Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg are to go through the hoop again, this time in respect of alleged conspiracy to defraud banks in relation to shares in Berlitz International, the language enterprise. They will be joined as defendants by Albert Fuller, the ex-head of MCC's Treasury. Michael Stoney, a former director of MGN, faces two charges of false accounting.

In the wake of Maxwell Trial I, *The Times* published a five-part series — Hunt for the Missing Millions — which analysed Arthur Andersen's administration of Robert Maxwell's private empire. Legal wheels grind on as do the wheels of the largest and most complex corporate recovery operation ever undertaken in the UK. It is more than four years

since Robert Maxwell's sprawling business empire, set against a Pyrenees of debt, came under the control of Arthur Andersen's joint administrators led by John Talbot. During that time, more than 250,000 man-hours have been clocked up on the realisation of assets, the international investigation of Maxwell's corporate legacy, and the agreement of creditors' claims.

Robert Maxwell's controversial business practices have made global headlines but, until now, the administration, that started in December 1991, has received minimal publicity. Talbot is a low-profile operator, much in keeping with the *ambience* at Arthur Andersen, which sports a logo that makes the most of two closed doors.

Much of the core investigative work carried out by Arthur Andersen's special unit, dubbed "the untouchables", was completed by the summer of 1992. Major claims were identified and the emphasis progressed towards negotiated settlements or, failing that, litigation.

The investigation unit, spearheaded by Chris Currington and

Leanne Grimes, also provided information to the authorities. This included liaison with MPs, Commons select committees, the Serious Fraud Office, engaged in a multi-faced probe into Robert Maxwell's curiosity shop and Department of Trade and Industry inspectors. It was in June 1992 that the DTI appointed John Thomas QC and accountant Raymond Turner to investigate and report on the "affairs and membership" of MGN — particularly affairs pertaining to the previous year's "ring-fenced" flotation. Maxwell Trial I has served to delay publication of the DTI report which, presumably, will be further delayed by yesterday's developments.

It was in the autumn of 1992 that Talbot informed the Commons Social Security Select Committee, chaired by Frank Field, the Labour MP, that realisations at end-July amounted to £110 million. Some 52 of 55 trading businesses had been sold. Administration and legal fees amounted to £6 million and £5 million respectively — 10 per cent of the proceeds. In addition to this, the investigative work had yielded

only Talbot had responded in detail.

Tony Brierley, another administrator, emphasises that the vast majority of asset realisations have been completed. In his words: "The assets that I dealt with in Eastern Europe required considerable patience. Almost the only assets that remain are property, based in the UK."

Maxwell's empire was long on property assets. Peter Tuch, the Arthur Andersen partner who acted as central co-ordinator to the entire administration, says: "We adopt an owner's mentality to property assignments and take a long-term view. By managing the projects ourselves we find that we are able to control costs and maximise site values, as has been the case with Maxwell's portfolio."

One of the quirks of the administration process is that it does not allow administrators to distribute funds. According to Tuch: "We had to ensure that the method of distribution was the most beneficial for creditors. Liquidation appeared expensive and after discussions with the

Group, Headington Holdings and London & Bishopsgate Group, have been complicated by the vast flows of funds in and out of Maxwell's "private side". A scheme has been approved to pool the corporate trio's assets for distribution.

As the table shows, overall realisations amount to some £716 million. The Big Man's "toys", including the *Lady Ghislaine* and the Gulfstream GIV, raised some £20 million, while investigation recoveries are understood to have contributed more than £100 million to the £189 million item. The sales of *Ma'arif* and *The European* accounted for £8.5 million and just over £3 million respectively. Gross private side indebtedness amounts to between £1.75 billion and £2 billion, including inter-company debts. Some £276 million is currently being held by companies under the administration's control.

Fees to date are reputed to amount to less than 4 per cent of the £716 million worth of realisations: significantly more productive than the legal show.



MELVYN MARCUS

### Frederick Cooper warning

Frederick Cooper, the metals engineering group, warned shareholders that operating profits for the six months to January 31 would be "significantly below those earned in the corresponding period a year ago".

However, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, total dividends are expected to be slightly in excess of the 2.5p paid for the year ended July 31, 1995. The shares fell 6p to 48p.

### OGC pegs offer

OGC International ruled out an increase in its agreed offer for OIS International Inspection, the oil industry services company, after Abbot Group, the engineering concern, increased the value of its original bid to £9.94 million from £8.25 million and acquired a 20 per cent stake in the company. Abbot's bid is worth 32p a share in cash, with an all-shares alternative, against OGC's offer of 25p.

### Bland resigns

Sir Christopher Bland has resigned as non-executive director of Nynex Cablecarriers Group, the cable television and telephony company, with effect from January 1 after his appointment as chairman of the board of governors of the BBC.

## Fokker is offered short-term lifeline

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Dutch Government is offering a temporary loan of 255 million guilders (£124 million) to administrators of Fokker, the stricken regional aircraft group, to provide a breathing space while buyers are sought for the business.

Government orders for four Fokker planes worth 110 million guilders are being brought forward to help to keep the factory at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport in work. But Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister, said that there was "no reason whatsoever for great optimism" about a rescue. Although speculators continued to buy Fokker shares, the minister said the company "faces very great problems".

Although the holding company and its commercial aircraft business are in administration, the company's aircraft

servicing and defence arms are trading normally.

One of the three administrators, Rutger Schimmeleir, said that he did not rule out finding a solution for the whole of Fokker. "I don't want to express pessimism or optimism — there are still too many open ends," he said. "The situation is worrying. Let's not forget that. But there is hope."

Bombardier, the Canadian group tipped to acquire Fokker's regional jet business, said again that it had "shown no interest". It already owns de Havilland, Canadair and Short Brothers of Belfast.

Short Brothers, which makes wings and other assemblies for Fokker's jets, has already taken preliminary steps to make up to 1,500 workers redundant.

The chances of finding a buyer or partner appear slim, particularly within the four-week reprieve from creditors granted to Fokker by a court in The Netherlands.

Mr Wijers said that the difficulties of finding a rescuer in an industry "with large financial risks, continuing overcapacity and ruthless price" were not good. "For the time being it is just words and paper," he said. He added that the Government would insist on market rates for its loans.

Trustees for some bonds issued by Fokker have begun moves to require their repayment. Counterpart in Germany, which held bonds issued by Fokker's behalf, responded to a consultation document on the likely impact on its credit by stating that it had accounted for all possible risks in its 1995 forecasts. This was interpreted as an indication that it had already written down some of the debt.



Different picture: John Partridge, the chairman of Partridge Fine Arts, reported a fall in profits to £1.9 million from £2.8 million last year. The dividend is cut to 2.9p from 3.3p

### News Corp and MCI in US move

By GEORGE SIVELL

MCI, the communications group, is to team up with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, to offer information and entertainment services to businesses and consumers across America via direct broadcast satellite.

The announcement follows MCI's successful \$682 million bid in the Federal Communications Commission auction for the last remaining direct broadcast satellite slot to provide coverage of all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Bert C. Roberts, chairman and chief executive officer of MCI, said: "This new venture is a perfect marriage of MCI's sales and marketing skills, customer base and billing abilities with News Corp's expertise in entertainment and information programming.

"We are especially excited about our ability to create unique new information products for our customers, a strategy that will clearly put us out in front of our competitors."

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, said: "This new venture demonstrates the strength of our strategic relationship with MCI. Working with MCI, News Corp will leverage its leadership in the worldwide entertainment and information business to bring exciting new video and information services to American consumers."

### British-Borneo in £54m rights issue

BRITISH-BORNEO Petroleum Syndicate is raising £54.1 million through a two-for-five rights issue at 310p per new ordinary share to finance exploration and development of deep-water oilfields in the Gulf of Mexico. It also announced a pre-tax profit of £13.6 million for last year, up 20 per cent. Oil and gas revenues were also up 20 per cent to £38.4 million. Existing shares rose 32p, to 410p.

Alan Gaynor, chief executive of British-Borneo, which already operates in the North Sea and shallow-water areas of the Gulf of Mexico, said the new development is an "opportunity ... giving us a competitive advantage over our peers for the next 12 to 18 months". Last month, the company entered into an agreement with Shell to develop and exploit the Morpeth oilfield, which has estimated reserves of around 50 million barrels.

*Tempus*, page 28

### NSM warns of loss

NSM, the mining company, yesterday said that it was likely to incur a loss in the second half of the year after being hit by a number of problems, including an out-of-court settlement, severe weather and lower prices. The company acquired Ryan Mining for £25 million last year but is also looking to make about £15 million from disposals. It said it expected to be profitable for the year, but if a number of disposals were not completed before March there would be a second-half loss.

### Grosvenor Inns ahead

GROSVENOR INNS, the bar and pub company, announced a 27 per cent rise in half-year profits to £913,000 before tax. The company, whose pub include the Slug and Lettuce, Hedgehog and Hoghead and Belchers chains, also said it was buying out the 20 per cent minority stake in Bar Central for up to £1.95 million. The costs will be covered with a share issue. The company, which secured a full Stock Exchange listing last August, increased turnover 24 per cent to £8.7 million. The dividend was raised 10 per cent to 2.75p, payable on March 15.

### Porsche accelerates

PORSCHE, the German sports car manufacturer, said its turnaround was continuing, with profits of DM100 million expected for the first half of the 1996 fiscal year. After three years of losses, it reported a profit of DM2.1 million for the year to July 31. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting yesterday that group revenues were up 19 per cent to about DM1.4 billion in the first six months of the fiscal year to January 31, against DM1.19 billion last time. Car sales rose 17 per cent to 9,569 during the same period.

### Caird plans refinancing

CAIRD GROUP, the troubled waste management company, announced a major refinancing, including a debt reduction, the restructuring of ordinary and preference shares and an issue of convertible loan stock to raise £5 million. Yorkshire Bank, the group's principal banker, will be repaid £5 million and has agreed to write off a further £7 million of the debt and to extend new facilities of £7.7 million. The issue is underwritten by CRBF, an investment fund owning 11 per cent of Caird.

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STOCK MARKET



PHILIP PANGALOS

# Late recovery sparked by improving US bonds

SHARES ended the week on a mildly positive note after a rebound on Wall Street and a technical recovery by US bonds helped to bolster sentiment in late London trading, offsetting weaker yields and futures markets.

The FTSE 100 index, down 19.7 points at one stage, recovered to finish the day up 0.5 at 3,734.7, giving a loss of 13.7 points on the week. Volume reached 740 million shares.

Volume was boosted by 51.7 million shares in Granada, 10p stronger at 71.5p. The bulk of this arose after one seller, understood to have been Granada itself, sold 25 million shares in ABN Amro Hoare Govett and BZW, which in turn placed them within range of institutional investors at the 60.5p level.

Forté, up 6p to 412p, is due to be replaced as a constituent of the FTSE 100 index after the close on Tuesday. It will be replaced by the largest company on the reserve list, which includes Mercury Asset Management, up 16.5p to 899.5p, the fund management group that played a key role in Granada's battle for control of Forté. Others on the reserve list are Next, 2p firmer at 45.5p; Greenalls, down 2p at 60.5p; MEPC, off 4p at 40.4p; and Anglian Water, 2p lower at 65.5p.

Ford dealers suffered a bout of indigestion after Sainsbury, the supermarket group, highlighted the competitive conditions gripping the industry by making what amounted to a profits warning. Sainsbury said in its January trading statement that a buoyant Christmas helped it to lift sales by 5 per cent in the weeks to January 13, but profits were hit by high promotional activity which will depress second-half margins and dent profits. The news saw analysts downgrade their profit forecasts.

Tony McNair at NatWest Securities has reduced his pre-tax profit forecast for the current year to March from £787 million to £760 million, with next year's estimate trimmed from £827 million to £815 million.

Sainsbury shares tumbled 21.5p to 359p on volume of 17.7 million, while Asda Group eased 1.5p to 106.5p as 10.8 million shares were traded. Argyll, which owns Safeway, fell 1.5p to 33.5p. Kwik Save up 39p to 50.5p and Iceland 2p to 15.5p.

British Steel was the best



Bill Colvin, right, and Alan Gaynor of British Borneo saw shares soar on news of a discounted rights issue

performing FTSE share, adding 4.5p, or 2.7 per cent, to 160p on volume of 5.79 million shares. Demand was fuelled after positive noises from United Steel in the US, pointing to strong orders and recovery hopes.

P&O, which is rumoured to be a potential break-up candidate, was the second best performer among FTSE

company, though a healthy 7.2 per cent yield has also attracted investor attention.

The bid stories were fuelled after UBS suggested a 700p-a-share break-up value on the company, underpinned by its strong property portfolio, said to be worth about £1.7 billion.

Thorn EMI jumped 34p to 161.75p, with demand for shares boosted by the

shares in Pearson and MAI, both part of the winning Channel 5 broadcasting consortium, added 8p to 64.6p and 3p to 34.5p respectively, after Richard Branson's Virgin Television failed in its High Court attempt to re-open the battle for the Channel 5 broadcasting licence.

stocks with the shipping to property group steaming ahead 13p to 54.5p, giving a two-day gain of 25.5p. Many in the City believe the group is ripe for takeover, particularly in view of its channel ferries operation suffering loss of market share as it fights it out with Eurotunnel, unchanged at 80p.

Talk is that a European group may be interested in launching a bid for the ferries

demerger of Thorn's music business later this year and speculative talk of a possible bid from either Seagram or the US or Siemens of Germany.

Elsewhere, Rolls-Royce, which makes Fokker aero engines, climbed 1.5p to 190p on news that Fokker has struck an interim deal with the Dutch Government and its creditor banks on a financing package.

British Aerospace added 9p

to 179.5p after the company confirmed that it is dropping its joint investigation into building a super jumbojet with Boeing.

News that British Borneo

hopes to raise £54.1 million through a two-for-five discounted rights issue, at 310p a share, was well received by the market. Shares in the independent oil and gas exploration company jumped 3.5p to 40p. The group plans to use the proceeds to finance new business in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The rights was supported by a 20 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £13.4 million, and a maintained dividend of 7.5p.

Biotechnology stocks continued to attract speculative interest, with British Biotech adding 11.5p to £23.50 for a three-day gain of 380p. Celltech, meanwhile, rose 20p to 65.5p, and Cortech 12p to 23.2p.

Back on the profits warning front, it was the turn of NSM and Frederick Cooper to upset the City. NSM shares tumbled 22p to 35p after the mining company warned of a second-half loss because of freak weather conditions, delayed disposals and a problem contract, though the group still expects to be profitable for the year. Frederick Cooper, the specialist engineer, saw shares slide up to 48p after warning that operating profits for the six months to January will be sharply lower than the previous year.

**GILT-EDGED:** International bond markets were the driving force behind gains in a volatile session, bouncing off intra-day lows to finish moderately weaker after falling sharply in afternoon trading on the back of plunging US Treasuries.

The March long gilt contract ended 1.5% lower at 110.05%, after touching an intraday low of 110.03% on volume of 46,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, five-year issues slipped by about 1%, while losses stretched to 1% among longer-dated issues. Index-linked fell by about 1%.

**NEW YORK:** A rally of shares in American Express pushed the Dow Jones industrial average higher while the broad market remained mostly softer at midday. The Dow was up 32.55 points at 5,249.71, largely because of the rise in American Express on talk that it may be a merger target.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	5,249.71 (+12.89)
S&P Composite	619.06 (+2.03)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	3,063.94 (+249.15)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11,111.87 (-8.79)
Amsterdam:	
Euro Index	102.46 (-1.59)
Sydney:	Closed
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2,432.93 (-10.79)
Singapore:	
Straits	2,477.34 (+4.34)
Brussels:	
General	876.65 (+95.91)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1,666.73 (+10.54)
Zurich:	
SWX Gen	718.10 (+2.00)
London:	
FT 30	2,704.3 (-0.7)
FT 100	3,734.7 (+0.5)
FTSE Mid 250	4,085.6 (+1.1)
FTSE All-Share	18,554.6 (+0.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1,150.5 (-0.55)
FTSE Smallcap 100	1,028.9 (-1.05)
FTSE Financials	1,423.09 (+1.05)
FT Fixed Interest	114.57 (-0.34)
FT Govt Secs	95.62 (-0.37)
Bargain	333.20
S&P 500 Volume	7,040,000 (+1,000)
USA Parafilm	1,528.1 (+0.20)
German Mark	2,241.4 (+0.045)
Exchange Index	83.1 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	1,745.75 (+0.15)
ESPO	1,398.0
RPI	150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987-109
RPIX	149.0 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987-109

## RECENT ISSUES

Ballymurray Holdings	6	...
Century Inns	118	...
Domino	76	+ 2
Jupiter Split Cap	855	...
Jupiter Split Plus	98	...
Nihon Pdm Wts	8	...
Revelation Plc	108	...
Skypharma B Wts	75	+ 1
Vivann	175	- 10

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Berkley Gp n/p (435)	54	+ 2
Elec Holdings	115	- 1
Century Inns	118	...
Domino	76	+ 2
Jupiter Split Cap	855	...
Jupiter Split Plus	98	...
Nihon Pdm Wts	8	...
Revelation Plc	108	...
Skypharma B Wts	75	+ 1
Vivann	175	- 10

## MAJOR CHANGES

RIBES:	
Soundtracs	41p (+10p)
LBMS	3,420 (-32p)
Titan	1,206 (-10p)
British Borneo	410p (-32p)
Cliff Resources	137p (-9p)
Pico	2,006 (-13p)
Somebys	9,456 (-60p)
Unsel	255p (-18p)
Eve Group	220p (-10p)
Cortech	282p (-20p)
Eng China Clay	3,255 (-11p)
Mits	6,009 (-20p)
Celtech	8,575 (-20p)
Yons Chem	266p (-8p)
KF Burme	5,524 (-13p)
FALLS:	
NSH	35p (-25p)
Pacer Systems	154p (-11p)
J Sainsbury	3,838 (-21p)
Miel	549p (-14p)
Ashmore	83p (-28p)
Wilson & Philip	434p (-16p)
Cable Wireless	434p (-16p)
Unitech	4,486 (-10p)
Land Sec	633p (-1p)
BBIA	295c (-9p)
BEA	3,025 (-10p)
Closing Prices Page 41	

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RISES:	
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Unitech	4,486 (-10p)
Land Sec	633p (-1p)
BBIA	3,025 (-10p)
Closing Prices Page 41	

## MAJOR CHANGES

## DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1,352.4 (+1.385)
Austria	104.46 (+10.49)
Austria Comp	1,379.50 (+10.49)
Belgium	1,274.00 (+1.274)
Denmark	5,764.45 (+1,040)
France	4,110.45 (+1,524)
Germany	1,145.00 (+1.145)
Germany Comp	7,733.00 (+1,507)
Iceland	1,853.51 (+1,853)
Ireland	1,063.50 (+1,063.50)
Italy	1,103.50 (+1,103.50)
Japan	1,103.50 (+1,103.50)
Japan Comp	1,103.50 (+1,103.50)
Malta	

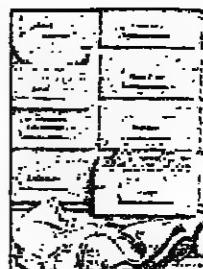
**PAIN IN GAIN 37**

Delays cause more Tessa troubles

# WEEKEND MONEY

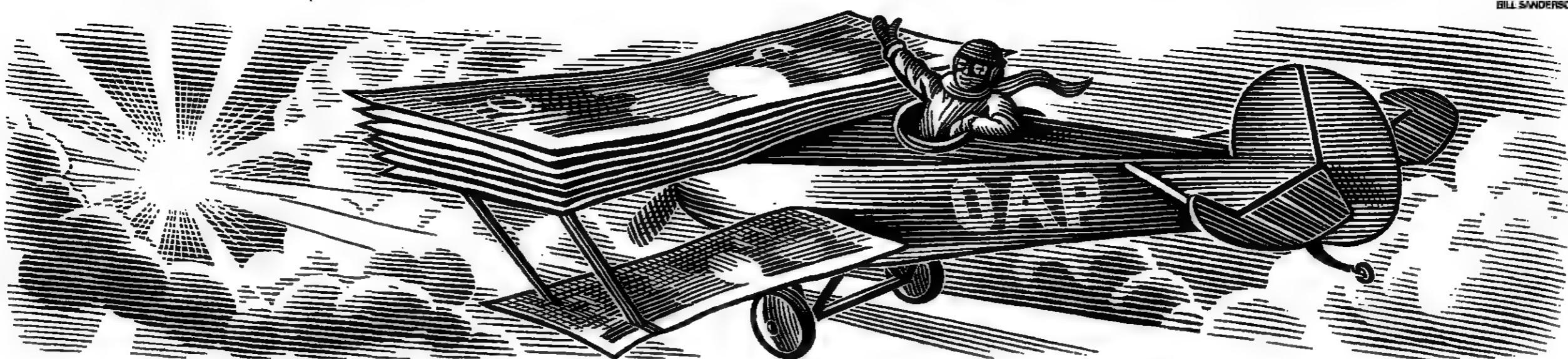
**A-Z OF FINANCE**

Your guide through the money maze



**Compulsory contributions to a new scheme may be needed to resolve crisis**

BILL SANDERSON



## Workers may have to top up pensions

Action is needed soon to erase the threat of old-age poverty. **Sara McConnell** reports

**W**orking people may be compelled to make contributions to pension schemes to top up basic state retirement provision, if the Government accepts the advice of an independent inquiry into retirement income published this week.

The Retirement Income Enquiry (RIE) claims compulsory contributions to top up pension schemes by the better off are the only way the country can ensure its citizens have enough to live on in retirement. It criticises the existing pensions regime as "unsatisfactory for many people" and gives warning that some of society's more vulnerable people find themselves facing poverty in old age.

Its findings reflect growing Government fears that an ageing population, combined with a shrinking workforce, will put an unbearable strain on the present state pension by the early decades of the next century.

So how might the system work? What will be different? Here are answers to some of the questions you may be asking.

**Q** I work full-time and pay National Insurance contributions, so am I contributing to my pension?

**A** In theory, yes. Part of your NI contribution goes into the National Insurance fund, which pays state pensions. There are two sorts of state pension, basic and earnings-related. The maximum basic state pension for a single person this year is £58.85 and for a couple £94.10, but you only get this if you have paid full National Insurance contributions throughout your working life. You are also paying towards the state earn-

ings related pension scheme (Seps), unless you or your company have opted out.

**Q** So why am I contributing "in theory"?

**A** National Insurance fund is run on a pay-as-you-go

than workers can make it up again. By the time today's workers, particularly those in their 30s and 40s, reach pension age, it is unlikely the fund will be able to afford more than a nominal state pension, despite recent moves to raise women's retirement age to 65.

This basic pension will be topped up with compulsory contributions to an occupational scheme, a personal pension or a new national pension scheme, on top of state contributions. Employers and employees would both have to contribute at least a set minimum, as would the self-employed. It is not yet clear who would run a national scheme, but it could be the insurance companies operating under contract from a specially created governing body.

**Q** But it is insurance companies who sold all those people the wrong pensions!

**A** Even insurance companies admit they have a credibility problem and the RIE expresses concern about pension mis-selling. More than two years after hundreds of thousands of people were found to have been wrongly advised to transfer from company schemes to personal pensions, only a handful have been compensated.

The reputation of insurance companies generally is likely



Pensioners may soon get the answers they want to hear

basis. This means the contributions you pay in immediately go out to pay pensions to today's retired people, instead of being invested. This is fine when there are substantially more contributors than pensioners, but now there are older people living longer and draining the fund faster

**Q** What does the Retirement Income Enquiry suggest as an alternative?

**A** It wants to keep the basic state pension but abolish Seps, which would be expected to cost £12 billion a year by 2030. The basic state pension, paid from the National Insur-

ance fund, will be one element of a new "assured pension", made up of state pension, savings and a top-up from the state if necessary to what the Government considers an adequate income.

This basic pension will be topped up with compulsory contributions to an occupational scheme, a personal pension or a new national pension scheme, on top of state contributions. Employers and employees would both have to contribute at least a set minimum, as would the self-employed. It is not yet clear who would run a national scheme, but it could be the insurance companies operating under contract from a specially created governing body.

**Q** Are company schemes any better? What if my employer steals my pension money?

**A** The Government was forced to act to tighten up occupational pension regulation after hundreds of millions of pounds disappeared from the coffers of Maxwell pensioners.

The Pensions Act 1995 provides for a compensation fund, a pensions regulator and a certain proportion of member trustees to try to prevent abuse. But none of these will stop an employer bent on fraud.

### Mis-selling bill could top expected £4 billion

In the latest development in the personal pension controversy, Pearl Assurance this week fought back against claims that its bill for compensating for mis-selling was higher than the industry average.

The company's claim could mean that the £4 billion total previously given as the life insurance industry's total liability for the personal pension scandal could be an underestimate.

Pearl refused to comment on the £240m estimate for its own compensation, and claimed it was too early to tell what the eventual bill would be.

Pearl said that competitors who were claiming to have only a handful of compensation cases had failed fully to realise their problems. The company claimed that its review was at a more advanced stage than those of its competitors. To date, Pearl has calculated that around 120,000 of its 300,000 per-

### Pearl attacks rivals' findings

employees had been urged not to join company schemes.

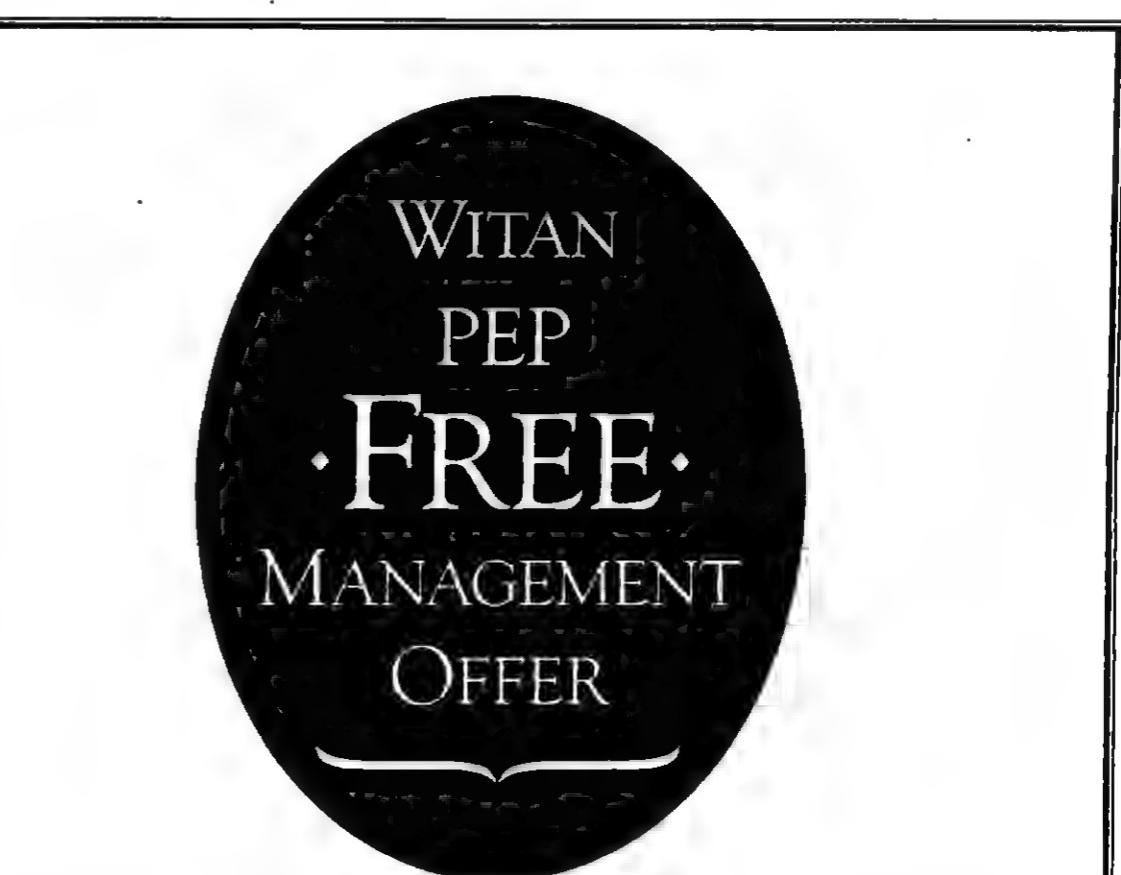
Those who have been misadvised will eventually be compensated for losses.

Last week, a survey of some of the biggest pension providers pinpointed Pearl as having one of the biggest problems with mis-selling. Max Mauchline, Pearl customer benefit review manager, disputed its findings, saying: "Our discussions with others carrying out the review would indicate that we have the same proportion of opt-outs as others, adding that transfers are less consistent."

Pearl has so far paid compensation of £1m on 200 cases, from a total of 40,000 opt-outs and 86,000 transfers.

The Personal Investment Authority, the regulatory body, said it did not rule out disciplining companies where there was clear evidence of systematic mis-selling.

CAROLINE MERRELL



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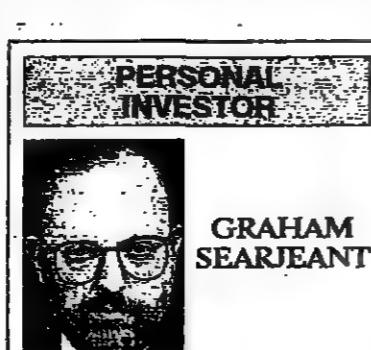
## Stakeholders v the barons

**R**emember last summer's stormy British Gas meeting? Private investors lambasted those new pay packages on which the board wasted so much time. Faceless pension fund managers, insurance companies and trusts backed the board. Perhaps they reflected the true feelings of the silent majority of small investors, as well as beneficiaries of the funds they manage. Perhaps not. There is no way of knowing.

Institutional investors' power to outdo individuals was well illustrated in the bizarre Forte affair. Unless quick money is to be had, however, the City barons who wield such power are not always so keen to exercise it. Contrary to unpinpointed guidelines, most did not bother to register a vote when asked by British Aerospace to approve the sale of Rover to Germany's BMW. The minority still outvoted private investors.

This hegemony might soon change. A fully funded compulsory National Pension Scheme to replace Seps, recommended by Sir John Anson's Retirement Income Inquiry, makes enough sense to see the light of day in the next five years. Unless the vast majority opted for private schemes instead, it would rapidly outgrow any other fund in the country. Quite rightly, the Anson report presumes that "the fund would be invested in a well-balanced portfolio of investments, like any other defined contribution fund". That would make it the biggest owner of domestic shares.

In the long run, that must be good for share prices. It will also change the role of shareholders. Thankfully, few now want Whitehall to use such shares to



control firms, like some new version of the National Enterprise Board. But the fund is bound to be politicised. The Anson report says it should be run not by government but by a "governing body acting in the interest of beneficiaries". That body would be appointed by ministers, however, so its conduct would be as open to political debate as independently regulated utilities.

The governors could delegate fund management to the usual City barons, but that would not really make much difference. If people are obliged by law to contribute, they are entitled to know how their money and their votes are used. Fund and holdings would have to be segregated, and votes made public.

Managers would inevitably be held accountable for more than the overall performance of the funds, via the governing body and ultimately via Parliament. They could not really hide behind the Scargill judgment, which obliges conventional trustees to ignore

wishes of members that might conflict with maximising proceeds. Alternative private funds, except for voluntary employers' schemes, should also expect to be more accountable to members.

The first problem would be choosing politically correct equity investments. But that is also most easily solved: by avoiding choice. The national fund would have to mirror the all-share index, not necessarily a bad thing. Draggedon contributions wanting a specific "ethical" or "green" policy could opt for a dedicated private fund.

Passive management might also help in the fraught area of takeover bids. Some index funds do nothing before a bidder wins control. This builds in a bias against hostile takeover bids, but that would doubtless be popular.

Even under such a regime, there is no escaping issues of corporate governance and company conduct: from share options to control of the chief executive, from dividend policy to major deals, from environmental audits to dirty deeds in poor countries. The national fund, or non-employer equivalents, would have to vote if topics come up.

Canny pressure groups will make sure votes are called, lobby funds and badger managers or governing bodies to answer for their actions. That process will wash over into pressure on the bloc-wielding barons to become more open and accountable too. Private shareholders would gain no power individually, but could wield far more collectively, if pressure groups lobbying the faceless ones reflect their views. If not, they had better start their own.

Clare Stewart on our national obsession, antiques, from fine art to Dinky Toys

## Bulls roam the auction houses

**I**NTEREST in antiques is growing, fuelled perhaps by the Jane Austen costume dramas that fill our TV screens. Last week 15,000 collectors packed the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre for the Art and Antiques Fair, mounted by Lapada, the association of art and antique dealers. Furniture sold strongly, with a pair of 19th-century cabinets making £42,000.

**O**n show to tempt buyers at the Birmingham fair were £20 million worth of antiques, ranging from £5 to £100,000. The rush at the fair reflects activity nationwide as collectors and bargain-hunters search local shops and village hall sales in their quest for something going for a song.

Buying antiques is a national passion that embraces an enormous diversity of taste and budget: whether you are buying for investment, are drawn to the visual appeal of certain items, or just enjoy collecting.

The following television series, such as *Antiques Roadshow*, is indicative of ever-growing interest. Now in its eighth year, the programme attracts about 12 million viewers every week, and at each location between 200,000 and 500,000 people turn up, clutching their treasures, frequently queuing from dawn in order to be seen by the experts.

This year promises to be busy, for dealers and auction houses, with tradeshows expected to continue their post-recession recovery. The fine art and antiques market was hit hard by the recession as serious buyers and sellers stayed away, and auctioneers and dealers had to tighten their belts.

International sale at Christie's last year totalled £931 million, up 14 per cent on the previous year. Highlights included top prices being set in categories ranging from Old Masters and Impressionist paintings to ready-to-wear, as well as ballet slippers belonging to the late Rudolf Nureyev.

Record prices in the salerooms do not necessarily equate to record investment returns in the future. It is also very difficult to make a comparison with other forms of investment in deciding whether your money is better in antiques or a Clarice Cliff tea



The Lady Penelope puppet from television's *Thunderbirds* fetched £30,000 for her co-creator last year

bears to train sets continue to be eagerly sought after. The sound of jaws dropping could be heard at Phillips, the London auctioners, last year as Sylvia Anderson, co-creator with her husband, Gerry, of the *Thunderbirds* puppets, sold her Lady Penelope puppet for £30,000.

Generally, "prices are now firming up compared to the last three years, which have been difficult," according to Mr Hord. "There are indications that we are moving from a bear to a bull market," he says.

For many people the route into collecting is through the more everyday items that do not always require a large cheque book.

One ever-expanding market is what is loosely termed 20th-century collectables, which might be phone cards, Swatch watches or Disney souvenirs. The sale of cinema and pop memorabilia is also setting new records, though more cautious investors might doubt their long-term investment value. Toys from yester-

days

are highly collectable those linked to film and television productions, from the earliest *Batman* to *Star Wars*. Early *Barbie* dolls are also in demand, fetching up to £1,000 each.

Many people, having exhausted local shops and fairs, are rather timorous about venturing into an auction room. "People get very nervous that they are going to end up with a stuffed elephant for £2,000 if they bid an eyelid," says John Kirkham, associate director of Hamptons, the Surrey auctioneers. "That's absolute rubbish — you need to make a very definite eye contact with the auctioneer before you are included in the bidding."

Furthermore, to avoid any confusion, salerooms issue bidders with an identifying number that can be raised to attract the auctioneer's attention.

The buyer's premium will vary, but

an average is about 15 per cent,

inclusive of VAT. Payment is usually in cash, direct debit or banker's draft. Unless agreed in advance, payment by cheque is not advised, as your stuffed elephant or Chippendale chairs will not be handed over until the cheque has cleared. You might also have to pay storage charges while waiting.

If you are selling, it is advisable to get several valuations. Most auction houses can offer free verbal valuations if they have the necessary specialist in-house. For a fee, they will come to your house.

When buying from dealers, it is important to get a detailed receipt and history. As an added safeguard, dealers belonging to trade associations such as Lapada or the British Antique Dealers Association (Bada) will be bound by a code of practice.

Any complaints about a purchase can be referred to the relevant association.

## A QUESTION OF MONEY

### Chance for TSB customers to share in merger

**M**ORE than one million Trustee Savings Bank shareholders with a stake in the original bank have been given the opportunity to take part in a new share dividend scheme, in the wake of its £13.6 billion merger with Lloyds Bank.

While existing Lloyds Bank shares have been cancelled, TSB share certificates remain valid and TSB shareholders have already received a special cash dividend of 68.3p per share.

For the first time, TSB customers will be able to take part in a share dividend scheme that has always been available to shareholders in Lloyds Bank. Below we answer some of the relevant questions.

**Q** What is the share dividend scheme?

**A** The opportunity to receive new ordinary shares in Lloyds TSB Group instead of cash dividends. The offer is available to all United Kingdom shareholders and participants in staff profit-sharing schemes whose shares are held in trust.

**Q** How long do I have to decide?

**A** The first cut-off date for shareholders who want to take shares instead of cash dividends is April 2, but shareholders can change their mind at any time. Applications must be made at least 28 days before the dividend date to be eligible for the dividend. The scheme will start with the final dividend for 1995, which will be paid on May 1, 1996. Anyone who buys extra shares after they have completed the form will receive shares instead of cash dividends on their entire holding.

**Q** What are the benefits of taking new shares in the company?

**A** There are two main benefits for shareholders who opt for new shares over a cash dividend. Under the new scheme, shareholders will be able to increase

their holding in the company without incurring dealing costs. At the same time, some shareholders will be able to take advantage of certain tax benefits. If you pay basic or lower-rate income tax, you should have no more tax to pay if you take shares.

If you receive a cash dividend and your income tax liability is less than the credit attached to the dividend, you are entitled to claim back the overpaid tax. However, you will not be able to enjoy these benefits if you take new shares.

Anyone who makes covenanted donations to charity or other payments net of basic rate income tax who relies on cash dividends to cover such charges for taxation purposes, should take into consideration that they can only set a cash dividend against charges and not the cash equivalent.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, a business planning director at Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "Look to the taxman. If you are in a PEP, take the cash dividend and claim the tax back. If you are outside a PEP, take the stock option.

These are good quality shares with a good yield," he said. "It's a nice quiet way of building up your portfolio, without paying commission charges."

**Q** How many shares will I receive for each dividend?

**A** It will depend on the value of the cash dividend, the number of shares already registered in your name, and the stock market share price. Fractions of shares will not be issued, and any cash balance will be carried forward without interest and included in the calculation for the next dividend payout.

If your cash dividend entitlement together with any cash residue brought forward is not enough to acquire at least one new share, the cash residue will be carried forward to the next dividend.

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**MORAG PRESTON**

## Temptation of a market-linked guaranteed bond

**T**hese days, when building society deposit accounts are paying paltry interest, an unknown life assurance company is tempting savers with a more generous-than-usual guaranteed-growth bond. Give a £500 minimum to Hamilton Life and you are guaranteed 50 per cent capital growth over six years, free of basicrate tax. There are further possible returns if the FTSE 100 index performs well.

If you need guaranteed regular income rather than growth, monthly income can be paid at 6.7 per cent a year

or annual income at 6.7 per cent. If you take the income route, you will still get back your initial investment at the end of six years, plus any stock market growth.

"This has come at a good time with interest rates dropping and it is giving a substantial return," says Amanda Davidson, of Hulme Mechan, the independent financial adviser. "The only question is who runs Hamilton Life? A guaranteed 50 per cent as good as the stock market?" Hamilton Life is part of the American FPC Bank, the bank that issued the ATM credit card.

among others, and which says it has assets of more than \$35 billion. For the past 12 years, Hamilton Life has concentrated

on credit protection insurance. This is the first bond it has issued. Andrew Ferguson, of Hamilton Life, said: "We are aware that people have heard of us. But we have distributed the product through independent financial advisers, so it doesn't matter that our name is unknown. Through this bond we have opened up a new means of distribution for the company, and there will be further issues of bonds and other new products to come." The adviser who

sent the mailshot was Johnson

Fry, which says it investigated

Hamilton Life fully. You don't

get a guarantee for nothing.

For a start you may not earn the full value of any market rises. Hamilton Life says it will give 50 per cent of the actual growth in the FTSE 100 index, calculated as a percentage of your earnings. Also bonds do not pay the underlying shares' dividends. The plans are inflexible, so if you need your capital or the market falls and you could be earning more elsewhere, you can only surrender your policy at a harsh penalty. And the return from bonds at the end of their term is paid after deduction of basic-rate income tax, which cannot be reclaimed by non-taxpayers while higher-rate taxpayers face an extra tax charge.

If you want the comfort of a guaranteed return of your

**Bonds tax threat**

capital, ask an independent adviser for advice. Marks out of ten for the Hamilton Life guaranteed-growth bond? "If it was another well-known company, I would give it a high mark," said Amanda Davidson, "but since I don't know this lot, six out of ten."

**SARAH JONES**

## National Savings

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### Index-linked Savings Certificates

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## Take the flotation money and run

**P**atience is the principal skill required to play the building society flotation lottery which is a game of delayed gratification. Having spotted a society itching to shed its mutual status, you must be prepared to wait for your cash or free shares. This period of anticipation will not necessarily be a relaxing experience.

For 18 months or more, your cash will sit in the society, anticipating stock market debut day. You know that withdrawing any cash could put your payout at risk. Under the terms of both the Halifax and Woolwich conversion schemes, the size of the free share entitlement will be based on the lowest balance in the account between the first qualifying date, and a second later date.

In a fair-minded decision that shows the society's determination to retain the long-term goodwill of its customers, the Halifax has said that it will reveal this second date some time in advance to allow members to replenish their balances. The Woolwich, however, reserves the right to announce the second qualifying day retrospectively. As several readers have remarked, this word has seldom sounded so menacing. The Woolwich, once renowned for being equitable, both in name and deed, should be careful about its reputation.

Knowing that their members are held captive, societies can afford to be a lot less competitive about savings rates, as National & Provincial savers can attest. Next week, the Woolwich lowers its rates



**COMMENT**  
ANNE ASHWORTH  
*Personal Finance  
Editor*

by an average of 0.4 per cent. But its savers will not be as offended as those of the Alliance & Leicester whose flotation announcement is imminent.

This week the society launched a Prime 90 Deposit Account. Those who invest will not be able to share in the society's flotation largesse. But, by way of compensation, they will be earning far more generous rates than the hapless

holders of A&L share accounts who are paying for their flotation expectations in lower returns. For example, the new and shiny Prime 90 Deposit pays 6.60 per cent on amounts between £10,000 and £24,999. This compares with 4.05 per cent on the Bonus 90, a share account. The differences are less marked, but significant for smaller amounts.

Without putting in jeopardy their share entitlement, there

is little that Bonus 90 savers and others who have seen their returns become uncompetitive, can do to complain about such anomalies. Except, perhaps, to regard the whole thing as a nothing more than a game and take their money elsewhere, as soon as they have picked up the flotation price.

### Why so mean?

THE 1995 Budget contained two concessions for savers, a cut to 20 per cent in the tax on savings and a new lower age limit of 60 for National Savings' policy.

At the time, the various National Savings' schemes with their competitive returns were being promoted as never before. Three months later, things look

rather different. But then consistency has never been the hallmark of National Savings' policy.

Rates on the whole National Savings range have been cut. Although elderly savers who are currently switching from Income Bonds into Pensions Bonds will still be able to earn the old rate of 7.5 per cent, others will earn the new rate of 7 per cent. National Savings obviously hopes that the new lower tax will make the return look attractive, despite the cut.

Following the decrease,

Pensioner Bonds are still a reasonable investment, but those about to celebrate their 60th birthday will not be much impressed with the Chancellor's rather mean present.

DEB JENSON

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## What price loyalty to societies?

Anne Ashworth on the dilemma of pleasing both City and savers

**A**s the Alliance & Leicester Building Society prepares to reveal the details of its £3 billion stock market flotation, attention has focused on its plan to produce a customer loyalty scheme in March. These ever-more popular packages reward customers with cheaper mortgages and improved savers' rates. Following the examples of the Yorkshire and the Bradford & Bingley, the Britannia and the Nationwide, will also launch loyalty schemes.

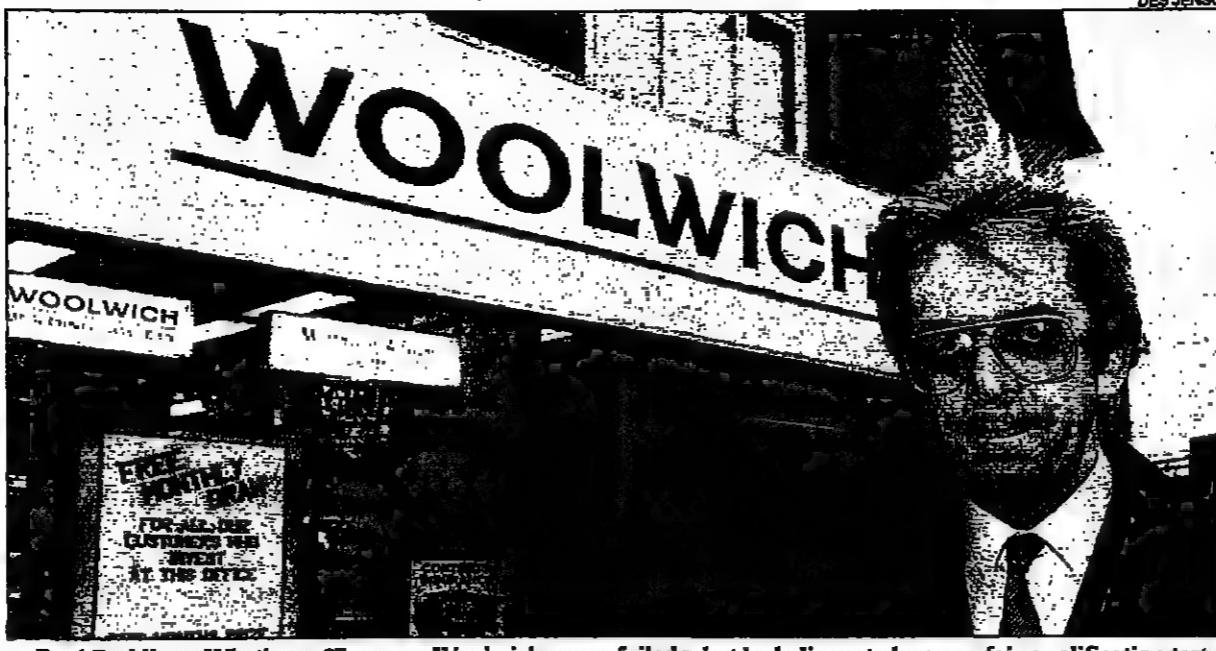
The Alliance & Leicester's decision has caused comment in the industry because such schemes are associated with societies determined to retain their mutual status.

Yesterday, senior figures questioned how the Alliance & Leicester could make itself attractive to City investors and still return profits to customers.

This is the basis of both the Bradford & Bingley loyalty scheme, revealed this week, and the Yorkshire scheme, which was announced in October 1995.

One observer commented: "The Bradford & Bingley is giving back £50 million of its profits. What's the City going to think about the Alliance & Leicester showing a fall in its 1996 profits because it has given back a third to its members?"

If the Alliance & Leicester decides, as predicted by some, to make December 31, 1995, the cut-off date for its flotation, this would also be the source



Paul Bodham-Whetham, 27 years a Woolwich saver, failed what he believes to be an unfair qualification test

of controversy. Only those who were qualifying members of the society at that date and remained so until flotation would benefit from the free share distribution. Qualifying members are borrowers, owing not less than £100 and holders of share accounts with balances of not less than £100.

The Woolwich's decision to fix December 31 as its cut-off date has caused a furore. The aggrieved savers include not only the 30,000 who opened accounts in early January before the announcement of the Woolwich flotation, but also thousands of long-standing customers. It was possible to open certain Alliance & Leicester share accounts until January 16.

The Times last week revealed the growing sense of grievance among customers who had been with the Woolwich for decades but would not benefit from the share bonanza.

Mr Bodham-Whetham, who lives in Berkhamsted, Berkshire, argues that qualification for the flotation benefits should be based on average balance over a 12-month period.

He commented: "Those carpetbaggers who rushed to close their accounts in early January because their convenient local branch had been shut down and current account holders who are not entitled to free shares, as they have deposit-type, not share accounts."

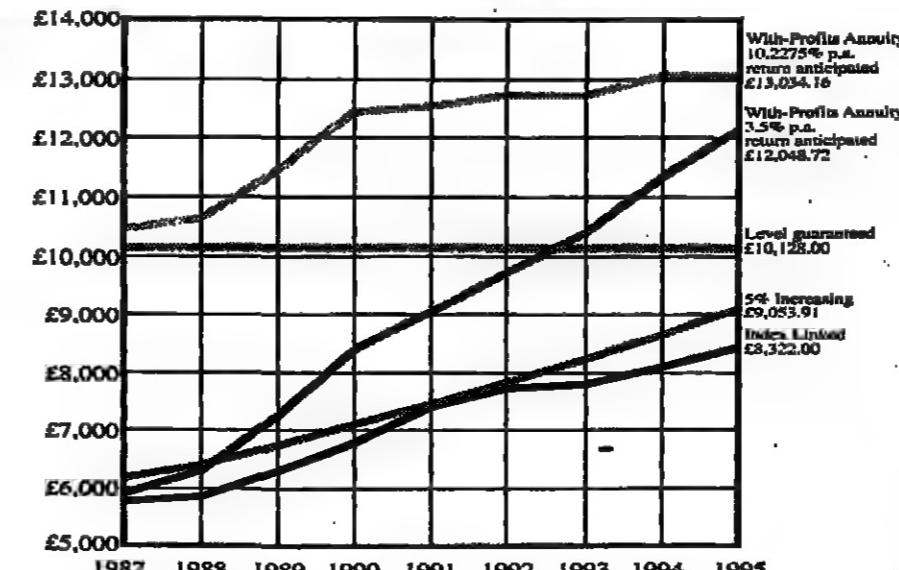
Although the Woolwich says that it can do nothing for these groups, the discontent remains.

Among those who have contacted Weekend Money this week are Paul Bodham-Whetham, a project director

**OVER  
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at the wrong time could  
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FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance  
27 - 28 January 1995

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The above graph is designed to show what happened to four identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most

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Virgin	0%	0%	1.00%	£300
Morgan Grenfell	3.00%	0%	0.75%	£398
Lloyds Bank	6.00%	0%	1.00%	£642

Figures taken from a Selection of other tracking PEPs.  
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**Morag Preston**  
on the pension  
options of offer  
to the young

**T**he thought that, for every five years you delay starting a pension, the cost can increase by as much as 50 per cent, should convince anyone in their early twenties to act on Niles's advice and "Just do it". The prediction that half the people in this country will retire on less than 50 per cent of their salary is another statistic that financial adviser Flora Price uses to encourage her younger clients to start thinking about their pension.

"Once they have at least three months' income tucked away in the building society, or more if they are self-employed, they should start looking at the very long term pension planning," says Ms Price. "It costs so much to catch up later."

In an already crowded market, with several hundred pension providers, anyone in their twenties who has sufficient income should talk to a financial adviser before locking themselves into a complicated scheme. Financial advisers can weigh up the costs of pension plans, discuss the financial strengths of the provider, and the flexibility of the pension. Most encourage younger savers to take advantage of company pension schemes, whereby employers contribute towards the pensions.

Craig Foreman, a senior manager at Touche Ross, says: "An employer's scheme has to be really awful for you to turn it down. It's something for nothing." However, he also points out that problems may occur should you want to change your job. "Only join in if you're going to be more than two years at your job," Ms Price, on the other hand, says: "Always go for it rather than not."

Not every company offers an in-house pension scheme, and they can vary enormously. Some employers set a date by which you must join, while others fix a minimum age limit as low as 25 or 30. In these cases, first-time earners are encouraged



Pension planning is a vital first course for young people starting their careers

aged to make provisions for themselves. Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Meehan, says: "When picking a provider, look for a pension that can cope with any changes should you change your career, and one that won't clobber you with charges if you do."

The majority of Ms Davidson's younger clients contribute between £50 and £100 each month into a personal pension. She recommends NPI, and Standard Life because "there is no penalty for retiring early, and it has good early transfer values". She also recommends Scottish Equitable because "they manage your money in a more adventurous way" and Friends Provident Stewardship Fund as a "green" option. Philippa Gee, at Gee & Company, says: "If there is no employer's scheme, you should start looking at

contracting out of Serps straight away as long as your earnings are approaching at least £10,000."

John Eaton of Lupton Fawcett is sceptical of traditional pension plans. He says: "It's only a savings scheme with tax advantages. Your money is locked up until you're 50 and, at the far end of the day, you won't get the original capital back." Mr Eaton recommends a savings plan which includes Tessa, Peps and investment trusts, with easy access to capital or an investment trust pension savings plan. He says: "Their charging structures are more competitive and they have a better investment potential." In June last year, Foreign & Colonial introduced a new Low Start Option for anyone who wants to start their pension early but can contribute only £50 monthly.

## WINNERS & LOSERS

### Car buyer beware

MOTORISTS who buy a second-hand car unaware that it is still on a hire or lease agreement could end up having the vehicle seized and losing thousands of pounds and contesting the case in court (Marianne Curphy writes). A Times reader, Demetris Kourdoulos, ran into problems when he bought a Fiat Uno three years ago. Less than a year later, the man who had sold it to him died.

Three months after the seller's death, Mr Kourdoulos was contacted by Motability Finance Ltd, a London company with a contract motor fleet of 125,000 and which specialises in hiring cars to disabled people. It said it intended to repossess the car, the first Mr Kourdoulos knew of a lease agreement under which the user returns the vehicle to the hire company at the end of the term. The vehicle registration document contained the details of the hirer (the seller) but nothing on the true owners. A court case ruled in favour of the finance company.

Motability Finance say Mr Kourdoulos should have made a check on the car to ensure there were no payments outstanding. "The car should never have been sold to him, because the seller would not have legally owned it."

Phil Howells, a legal expert with the Consumers' Association, said Mr Kourdoulos' only recourse would be to sue the estate of the seller.

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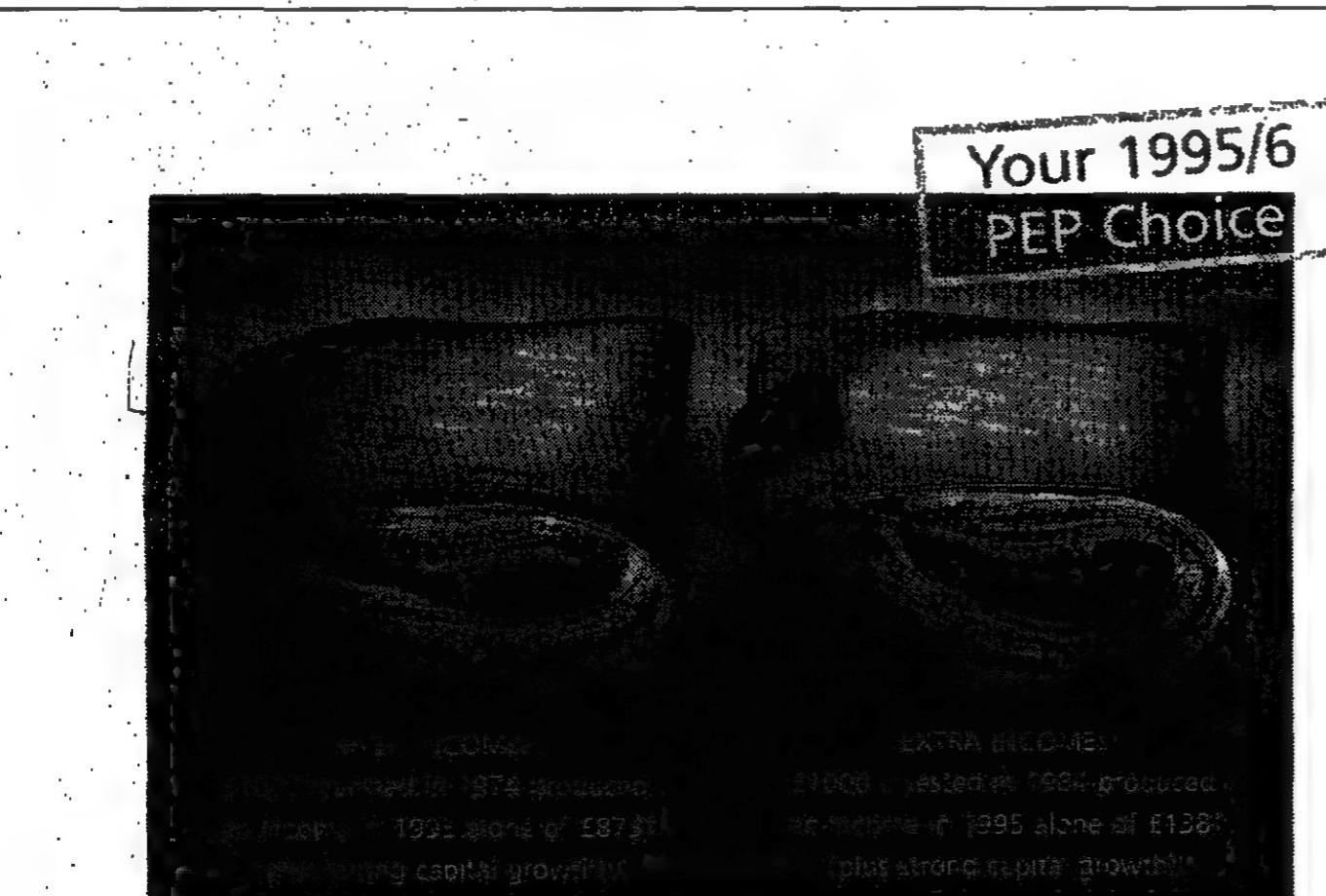
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Marianne Curphey on the case for distribution of the huge reserves amassed?

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**B**ritain's biggest building societies could pass on tens of millions of pounds of profits to their members by cutting mortgage rates and boosting savings but are reluctant to do so, it was claimed this week.

Homeowners could enjoy the benefit of a full 1 per cent cut in mortgage rates immediately if societies chose to redistribute their huge cash reserves now.

But despite talk of a "mortgage war" - as leading societies reduce rates to steal each other's custom - many are still sitting on huge profits which are now ploughed back to their members, according to Rob Thomas, housing analyst with UBS.

This week the Britannia and the Birmingham Midshires said savings and mortgage rates were "under review" after the Bradford & Bingley's 0.25 per cent mortgage cut on Wednesday. The Britannia said it was looking at giving "loyalty incentives, bonuses and rewards" to members. The Nationwide has hinted it intends to improve rates for savers and borrowers in April, the end of its financial year.

Mr Thomas says the 20 largest building societies will have made £3.7 billion pre-tax profit in 1995, an increase of 15 per cent on the previous year. They could easily afford to cut rates by 1 per cent, which would cost them two thirds of their profits but would win the goodwill of their customers by putting an extra £40 a month into the pocket of a homeowner with a £100,000 endowment mortgage.

Mr Thomas says: "The societies only need to retain a third of their profits. By giving away two thirds of profits they would lower their price in the market and make it easier for them to stay mutual. But they

forgot about mutuality in the 1980s when they made huge profits which they are now just sitting on."

Brian Davis, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "We have a similar philosophy to the Bradford & Bingley. The benefits of being a mutual is that we have only customers, and no shareholders, to satisfy. But it is a very tough market, and it is going to get even more competitive."

**H**omeowners could enjoy an immediate 1 per cent reduction in mortgage rates

The move by Bradford & Bingley, the sixth largest society, is an attempt to show that mutuality - where a society is owned by its members, rather than by shareholders - offers tangible long-term value.

The mortgage rate cut and the freezing of savings rates in a climate of cuts in bank base rates will, according to Dr John Wrigglesworth, Bradford & Bingley's head of strategy,

return profits of at least £50 million a year to savers and borrowers and account for a third of reported pre-tax profit in 1996.

He defended the decision not to pay more, or earlier, by saying that cash reserves need to be kept high to satisfy regulators and credit rating agencies.

He added: "After building up strong cash reserves in the 1980s we do not now need to sit on so much profit and we believe there is room to distribute further benefits to customers. We plan, though we cannot promise, to expand the benefits we offer our members."

The Yorkshire, which insists it is committed to mutuality, has already said it will spend an estimated £20 million of profits in 1996 giving more competitive rates to savers and borrowers. After the housing market crashed in 1989 and demand for mortgage products slumped, building societies resorted to "churning" - stealing each other's custom - in order to sell new mortgages. The Bradford & Bingley believes its latest move will help to retain customers.

## Societies could return millions



The bigger building societies may no longer be deemed Scrooges by their members

## Lloyds lures free-spenders with low-rate card

**L**loyds, the first of the high street banks to impose a fee for its credit card, is attempting to attract free-spending customers from its rivals by offering a card with no fee, for one year only. Lloyds will offer a temporarily low interest rate. Thereafter, those with lower balances will pay a slightly higher rate of interest.

The move could mean other card companies, attempting to appeal to those who do not clear their balance each

month, may have to cut their fees.

From Monday, Lloyds Bank Mastercard will be available at all high street branches, alongside its Access and Gold cards. Regardless of their balance, Lloyds Bank Mastercard customers will pay 1.25 per cent a month, or 16 per cent APR, for the first six months.

Customers who have more than £2,000 on their accounts will continue to pay the same rate thereafter, while those with £1,000-£2,000 will be

charged 1.57 per cent per month or 20.5 per cent APR. Those with less than £1,000 will be charged 1.62 per cent per month or 21.2 per cent APR.

Ian Lindsey, executive banking director at Flemings/Save & Prosper, said: "Their rates are generally in line with everyone else. They're trying to encourage customers with a lot of money to switch to their card, but they might as well switch to one like Flemings, charging 0.9 per cent or Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard charging 1.14 per cent."

He added: "Neither Flemings nor Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard gives an interest-free period, but that's only of relevance if you're sending your account in full."

Sandy Wansall, credit card manager at Lloyds said: "Customers also have the opportunity never to pay a fee if they spend £1,800 a year or £150 a month - which is only three trips to their local supermarket. They can try it out for six months free to see how it fits their lifestyle and spending pattern."

Every time customers use their Lloyds Bank Mastercard they will be automatically entered into a monthly prize draw. The more transactions they make, the greater their chance of winning. Among the prizes are £1,000 Boots gift vouchers, five £1,000 Thomas Cook holiday vouchers and a Rover 214Si car. Customers will also be entered into a £500 daily draw on completing their application forms.

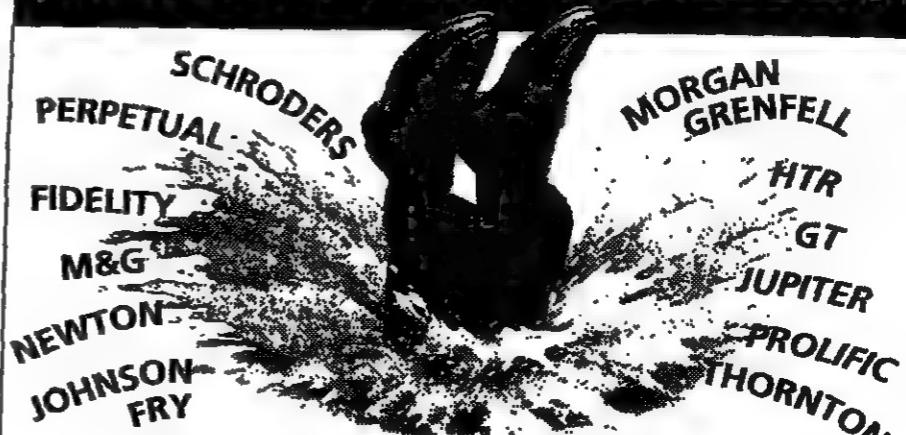
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### MASTERCARD UK CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES

	PIN %	APR pinless	APR cash	Cost of borrowing £1,000 per
Flemings/Saves & Prosper (£12 annual fee)	1.00	14.6	16.1	£188.80
Flemings/Saves & Prosper "Base Rate option"	0.94	11.8	14.6	£18.40
Bank of Scotland (£10 annual fee)	1.57	21.7	23.8	£215.55
Bradley Mastercard (£10 annual fee)	1.63	22.6	24.6	£224.12
Cheshire Access (£10 annual fee)	1.68	22.5	23.5	£220.75
The Express Card (£12 annual fee)	1.00	14.6	16.1	£138.00
General Motors (HFC Bank)	1.60	20.9	20.9	£208.83
Lloyds Access (£12 annual fee)*	1.57	22.0	23.9	£217.55
Lloyds Mastercard (£10 annual fee)*				
Under £1,000	1.52	21.2	22.4	£222.89
£1,000*	1.57	20.5	21.1	£215.55
£2,000*	1.26	18.0	18.25	£160.00
Midland Access (£12 annual fee)	1.58	22.3	24.2	£220.40
Natwest Access (£12 annual fee)	1.67	23.4	25.3	£231.87
Royal Bank of Scotland Access (£10 annual fee)	1.67	23.2	23.2	£228.67
Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard*	1.14	14.5	14.5	£145.71
The Sun Card (£12 annual fee)*	1.53	21.0	21.8	£211.80
TSB Mastercard				
Under £1,000	1.67	21.9	22.6	£219.87
£1,000*	1.60	20.9	21.6	£209.83
£2,000*	1.38	17.9	18.7	£178.70

\*No interest free period; \*Additional fee of £9 for second card issued; \*Annual fee waived for the first year and thereafter if more than £1,000 per annum; \*Annual fee waived for the first year and thereafter if more than £1,000 per annum

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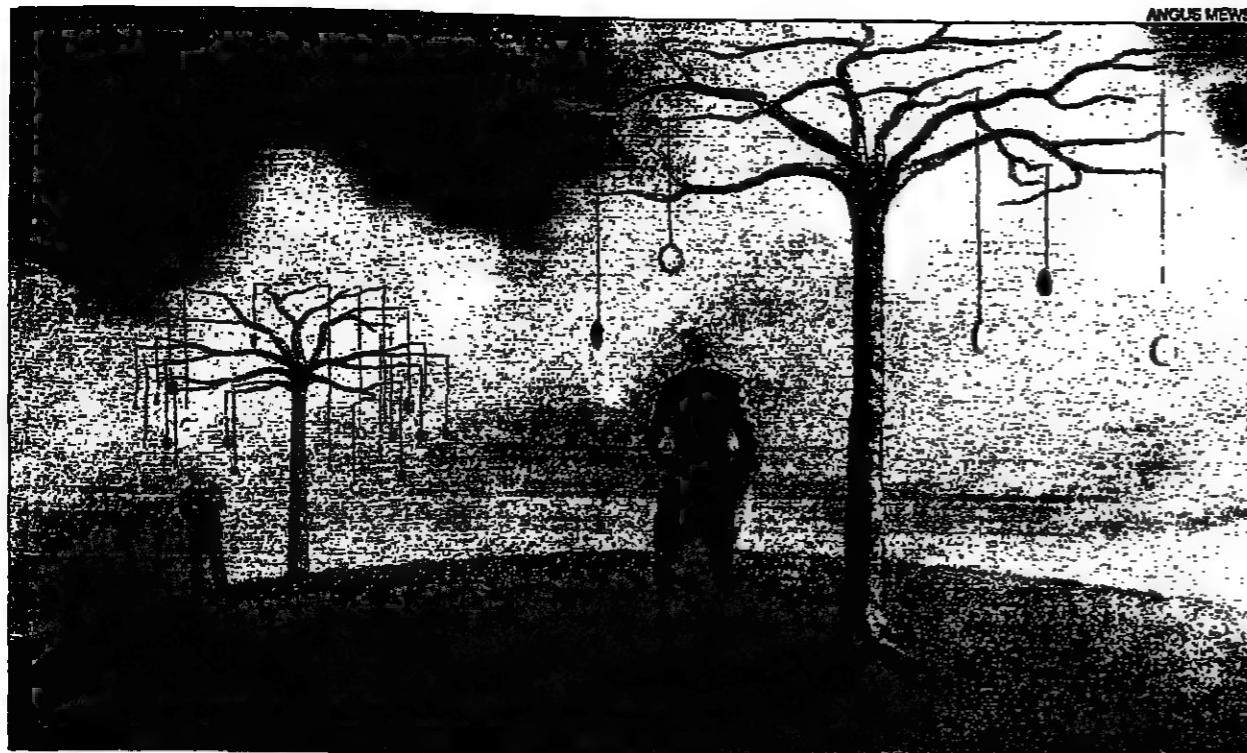
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## Tax threat takes shine off guaranteed-income bonds

**A** Budget tax cut, reducing the rate of income tax on building society and bank deposits from 25 per cent to 20 per cent threatens the future of guaranteed-income bonds, one of the most popular investments of the Nineties. Around £340 million was invested in these bonds last year alone.

The change to the taxation regime from April will make many of the guaranteed-income bonds on the market less attractive than the equivalent National Savings scheme.

Guaranteed income bonds pay a fixed level of income for a fixed term, guaranteeing to pay back the capital at the end of the term. Basic-rate taxpayers do not have to pay tax on the income from the bond, because the insurance fund has already paid tax. Higher-rate tax payers only pay tax at the marginal rate — 15 per cent.

Many bonds offer a growth option, which means the income can be reinvested. Rates of return on some of the guaranteed income bonds range from 4.75 to 6.7 per cent depending on the length of time you wish to keep your money tied up for.

The higher the rate, the longer you are locked in. National Savings has a number of comparable products. But unlike guaranteed income bonds, these will be taxed from April at the new 20 per cent savings rate. For example, the five-year Capital Bonds offered a fixed interest rate of 7.75 per cent, if the bond is held to maturity. After the deduction of tax at 20 per cent, this will be worth 6.2 per cent. This week this bond was replaced by a new capital bond which only pays a fixed

**Caroline Merrell says that National Savings bonds will return to favour**

interest of 6.65 per cent, making it more important for investors to hold on to their 7.75 per cent bonds until the end of the term. If you want to cash in your certificates before the end, you will receive a lower rate.

National Savings also offers a Pensioners Bond which, after another Budget change, can be bought by anyone over 60. This used to pay 7.5 per cent (6 per cent net of the new tax rate), but after this week's change will only pay 7 per cent (5.6 per cent net).

Charles Levett-Srivenner, director of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, said: "We compared the rates on GIBs with National Savings investments and found the gap between the two has narrowed as a result of the introduction of the savings tax. Net returns on National Savings have been boosted as a result of the Budget, while rates on GIBs have not changed."

He added that the Government was making it more difficult for companies to offer guaranteed-income bonds with high rates of income. "Now only those companies who have more expenses than

income are able to offer competitive rates," he said.

This peculiarity of life office taxation means only some of the smaller companies such as Hamilton Life (a subsidiary of US company HFC), Pinnacle Insurance, Consolidated Financial and Premium Life can offer competitive products — a fact which marginally raises the risk. Mr Levett-Srivenner added that the Government was reviewing the tax treatment of life assurance policies, and it was clear it did not like way companies exploited their expenses to be able to offer guaranteed bonds. He believes it plans to outlaw them except those already in existence.

One other way of achieving high levels of guaranteed income is through investing in Government securities. Five-year gilts are now yielding about 6.4 per cent. But income from gilts is taxable, which can make the eventual returns lower than other forms of fixed-interest security. Falls in interest rates over the past few years means many gilts are trading at a far higher price than their issue price, which in turn means that if they are held to maturity, taxpayers could end up losing a lot of their returns in tax.

Guaranteed investments are popular forms of saving. Sun Alliance this week launched a corporate bond Pep that guarantees the capital if it is held for more than six years. The Pep is currently yielding 6.95 per cent income.

For a guide to insurance bonds: Towry Law, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berks SL1 3PS. (01753 55400).

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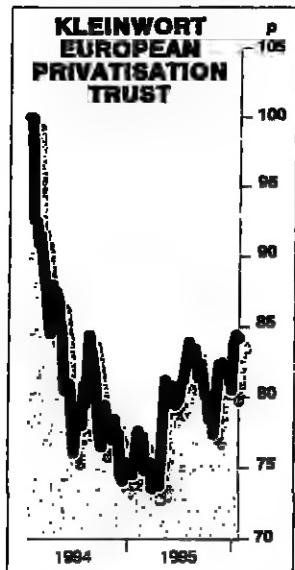
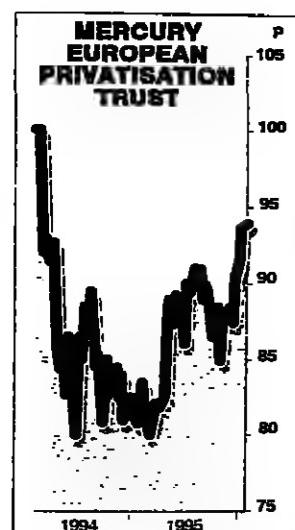
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## Roll up for the big buyback as Euro shares hit buffers

**K**leinwort Benson is considering buying back shares in its European Privatisation Investment Trust in a move to placate angry investors who have seen the value of their shares fall to an 11 per cent discount since the fund was launched.

Simon White, a director of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, said: "We believe that the solution to the problem of the discount is to try and increase demand for the shares." The company was trying to do this, he added, through a series of roadshows for intermediaries, while watching the effectiveness of a rival share buyback scheme in narrowing the discount.

Just before Christmas, Mercury Asset Management announced that it intended to buy back shares in its European Privatisation Trust to reduce a discount that was then running at 19 per cent. A discount means that the shares in a trust are trading at less than their net asset value.

Even if the managers of the trust invest wisely and the net asset value increases, shareholders who want to sell will be sold on the idea of buying



be unable to reap the rewards of good fund management because they will not be able to get what the shares are worth. Discounts are generated when there are more sellers of shares than buyers.

Lough Callahan, Mercury fund manager, blamed the creation of a big discount in the fund on a change of market sentiment at the beginning of 1994, when the trust was unveiled.

Mercury's fund attracted about £500 million from 70,000 investors, who were sold on the idea of buying

shares in newly privatised companies in Europe.

They were aiming to achieve some of the gains experienced by those investing in privatised companies in the UK, but their hopes have so far failed to materialise. The situation was not helped by economic woes and private-sector strikes in France.

Mr Callahan said: "The US

increased interest rates at the beginning of 1994, which had an effect on confidence."

**M**any people sold their shares immediately after launch, which generated the discount. Kleinwort Benson attracted a similar amount of money from around 72,000 investors. The share price of the KB trust is now 89p, compared with 100p at launch, while the share price of the Mercury is now 98p, compared with the 100p at launch.

The net asset value of the Kleinwort trust has increased to 100.5p since launch, while the net asset value of the Mercury trust has increased to 113p. Even though Mercury's share buyback has not yet

started, the discount has narrowed dramatically, from 19 to 15 per cent since the programme was announced. Mr Callahan believes that it will take between 12 and 16 months before it is cleared.

As well as hoping to give more value to shareholders

through the buyback, the investment house is hoping to increase interest in the shares through a series of roadshows and by an offer on its savings plan.

Mr Callahan believes that this year should be a good one for European shares. Last year

proved to be a difficult one for European fund managers looking for value in privatisation stocks.

Many of the newest privatisations were in countries suffering the effects of currency weakness, affecting in turn the net asset value of

the fund. Mr Callahan said that some of the shares in newly privatised European companies had fallen immediately after privatisation — an event which is almost unheard of in the UK.

CAROLINE MERRELL

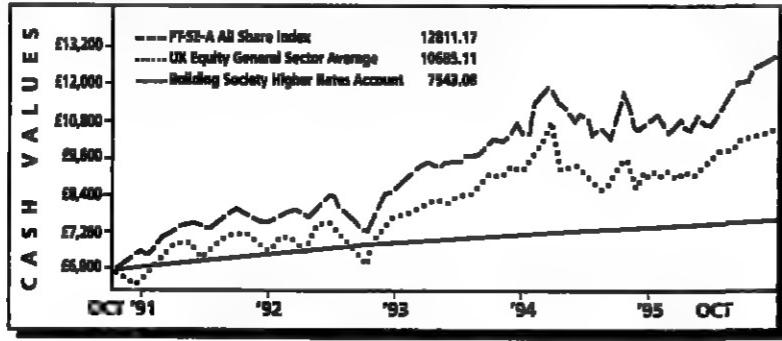
Striking private-sector workers in France have contributed to a lack of faith in European privatisation stocks

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Caroline Merrell on the trail of more Tessa troubles

## Tessa shortfall upsets Halifax savers

How we reported the controversy surrounding poor returns on Tessas with the Halifax Building Society

### Certificate delay causes savers pain

**A**s £2 billion worth of tax exempt special savings accounts reach the end of their five-year term, the rates on new accounts are not the only thing occupying the minds of Tessa holders.

After controversy over the differing payouts given to Halifax Tessa holders who opened their accounts in January 1991, it is now becoming clear that the maturity certificates, which savers need from their bank or building society if they want to reinvest their funds elsewhere, are being delayed.

Some savers believe that, in a fiercely competitive market, banks and building societies are holding up the certificates, in an attempt to dissuade customers from taking their cash elsewhere.

These delays could mean that savers miss out on some of the better deals available in the market.

Some of the fixed-rate accounts are limited to the number of savers they can accept. For example, after the cut in base rates, some institutions are now lowering the rates on their fixed-rate

Tessas. The West Bromwich Building Society this week reduced the rate of its fixed-rate Follow-up Tessa from 7.55 per cent to 7.35 per cent.

For Elsie Webb, a pensioner from Reading, the dilatory behaviour of Barclays in delivering her maturity certificate was the final straw in a worsening relationship with the bank.

Mrs Webb said: "My Barclays Tessa matured on January 10. I returned an instruction form requesting the money should be paid into a new Abbey National Tessa, and the details and certificate be sent to my home address."

"I got in touch with Barclays again on January 19, and received a statement by second class post on January 20, but not a certificate of maturity."

She finally received her maturity certificate on January 22, 12 days after her Tessa matured.

She said: "I got so mad with Barclays, I shall just be keeping a small current account with them from now on."

Barclays, at first, insisted it sent out all maturity certifi-



Waiting game: Elsie Webb lost patience with Barclays

cates by first class post immediately, but then admitted they had made an administrative error.

A spokeswoman said: "We wrote to all our customers back in October asking what they intended to do when their Tessas matured. We were overwhelmed by the response and there were further delays over Christmas."

The Halifax also suffered a glitch with some of its maturity certificates earlier this month, when computer problems caused delays.

The Halifax claimed that the problem was sorted out quickly and that it had complied with the Inland Revenue rules, which state that maturity certificates have to be sent out within 30 days.

### Second wave is linked to market growth

**T**he second wave of tax exempt special savings accounts also includes a group of accounts that paradoxically give savers some exposure to the stock market. Companies offering these accounts, include HSBC, the fund manager, the Birmingham Midshires Building Society and Lloyds Bank. The accounts pay a minimum interest rate, or a return linked to the rise in the UK stock market over a five-year period, whichever is the greater.

Equity-linked Tessas are aimed at investors prepared to take a little more risk with their money over the next five years. If interest rates remain at their current low levels, the maximum return

that could be achieved on these accounts is higher than the maximum which could be achieved from a more conventional account. But if inflation and interest rates rise, the situation may be reversed.

HSBC's Tessa, which has a £3,000 minimum, will give a guaranteed 5 per cent interest rate. Investors will also get a 1 per cent maturity bonus for each 1 per cent the FTSE 100 rises above 25 per cent over the five years. The bonuses stop if the index rises by more than 30 per cent, which makes the maximum amount of interest 9.16 per cent, with a minimum of 5 per cent. Alan Gadd, HSBC managing director, said 1.6 million people had registered an interest. "Many building

societies were assuming their savers would just reinvest," he said.

The Birmingham Midshires is offering two Tessas, one with a minimum 5.5 per cent interest rate, the other with 4 per cent. It will also give savers an extra bonus equal to the rise in FTSE over the five years, if it is greater than the minimum interest. The Bristol & West offers savers the greater of an annual interest rate of 4 per cent plus 1 per cent of the first year's investment, or the rise in the index, while Lloyds offers a minimum interest of 5 per cent, or the percentage rise in the index which ever is greater.

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56	£7,036.14
57	£6,587.69
58	£6,139.24
59	£5,690.79
60	£5,242.34
61	£4,848.79
62	£4,455.24
63	£4,061.69
64	£3,668.14
65	£3,274.59
66	£2,758.99
67	£2,243.39
68	£1,727.79
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Full terms and conditions are available on request from your local branch or from Newcastle Building Society Principal Office, Portland House, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5AL.

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# Payment due for power shares

THE second instalment deadline on the partly paid National Power and Powergen shares is 3pm on Tuesday, February 6. This means that all cheques must be received by the registrars by Thursday, February 1. One and a half million payment notices have been posted in respect of all current holdings, representing an instalment value of £1 billion. Shareholders who took up the Government's offer to buy in March 1995 must respond to these payment notices to retain the right to their shares as well as any future dividends on them. The National Power helpline is 01903 503 733, and Powergen's is 0117 975 1592.

■ NatWest has announced reduced dealing rates on its BrokerLine telephone share dealing service. For a deal above £4,000, the new commission rate is 0.1 per cent, compared with a previous charge of 0.4 per cent. Key features of BrokerLine include settlement by direct debit and real-time dealing. For further information, call BrokerLine on 0171 895 5018.

■ The Association of Solicitor Investment Managers (Asim), a group of solicitors

LIZZIE ROSE

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

### ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at January 25, 1996

	Investment (%)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
<b>1 Year</b>			
5,000	AIG Life	4.85	
10,000	AIG Life	4.75	
20,000	AIG Life	4.85	
50,000	AIG Life	5.00	
<b>2 Years</b>			
5,000	AIG Life	4.93	
10,000	AIG Life	5.03	
20,000	AIG Life	5.18	
50,000	AIG Life	5.33	
<b>3 Years</b>			
5,000	AIG Life	5.02	
20,000	AIG Life	5.22	
50,000	AIG Life	5.33	
100,000	AIG Life	5.42	
<b>4 Years</b>			
1,000	Premium Life	5.20	
20,000	Fratcial Assurance	5.30	
50,000	Fratcial Assurance	5.40	
<b>5 Years</b>			
1,000	Premium Life	5.50	
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.20	

Source: Chrysanthemum de Broc 0171-404 4222. Net rates, income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Bullion Share	Instant	£500	5.5%	Y/Y	
Direct Savings	Postal	£5,000	5.7%	Y/Y	
Direct Savings	Postal	£25,000	6.0%	Y/Y	
High Street	Instant	£50,000	6.5%	Y/Y	

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0500 248810	Direct 30	30 day p	£1,000	6.50	Y/Y
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0500 248810	Direct 30	30 day p	£10,000	6.75	Y/Y
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0500 248810	Direct 30	30 day p	£25,000	7.10	Y/Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal 120	120 day	£25,000	7.20	Y/Y

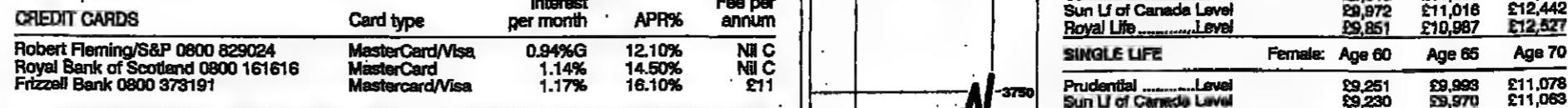
  

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Bank of Ireland 0800 833927		5 year	£500	7.25	F/M/Y
Allied Trust Bank 0171 826 0879		5 year	£5,000	7.25	Y/Y
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 717505		5 year	£23,000	7.25	Y/Y
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Y/Y



\* £70,000 of net fees, net access fee for up to £1000 + additional bridge up to £20,000 for refinanced procedure. \*\* Tax free. \*\*\* Based on £100,000. \*\*\*\* Guaranteed when held for 5 years. \*\*\*\*\* Net bonus for £20,000. \*\*\* £40,000 in addition to 5% holdings. \* Taxable but credit in full. \*\* Based rates over £50,000.

Source: MoniFacts, Inc. Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



\* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Annual Direct (0171 526 0393)

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### THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

#### Waiting for account to be settled is Mid Southern water torture

**From L. R. Hobbs,**  
Sir, Have any of your readers come across the extraordinary policies employed by Mid Southern Water in settling accounts?

Recently, I sold my property in Bracknell and wrote to the company on November 7, 1995 to ask them to provide a final account. I had telephoned earlier that day, but was told a written letter was required (all other facilities seemed happy with the telephone — electricity, council tax, etc). The company sent me a final account on November 16, indicating that they owed me a small amount. Cheques arrived from elsewhere but there was nothing from Mid Southern Water.

Eventually, on December 18, I telephoned to inquire about the moneys due to me. It transpired that I was required to write another letter to request release of the moneys. Nowhere did the final account indicate the need to thus write. Does the company assume people will guess what is required, or are they hoping people will forget about it? However, I wrote again on December 18, a letter received



#### Denial that comes with bankruptcy

**From Mr G. Peake**

Sir, In last Saturday's Weekend Money, there was an article by Karen Zagor about the prospect of the Duchess of York being declared bankrupt.

In the article, it was stated that "It is hard to imagine the Duchess of York ever being denied access to a bank account or credit card, even if her creditors do force her to declare bankruptcy". Surely, bankruptcy is supposed to mean this kind of denial?

Perhaps if the Duchess of York were still, or would revert to being, mere Sarah Ferguson, she, as a declared bankrupt, would have the same experience as "tens of thousands of ordinary people".

Yours sincerely,  
**GEORGE PEAKE,**  
113 Mottram Old Road,  
Stalybridge,  
Cheshire.

#### Not all loyal building society members are rewarded

**From Dr M. Crawford**

Sir, The current practice among building societies seeking to lose their mutual status seems to be to regard as significant those share account holding members who have £100 or more in the relevant account on a specified date. The date is selected in such a way as to make it impossible for speculators to qualify. The latest example is the Woolwich, which has selected December 31 as its qualifying date.

This practice can lead to what in my view is a serious

inequality, as my wife's experience with the National & Provincial illustrates.

She has for several years had an account with an average balance well in excess of £500. She would be regarded as a two-year account holder under the proposed terms of merger with Abbey National, apart from the fact that, two days before what turned out to be the qualifying date for that merger, she withdrew sufficient money to take the account below £100. As a result, she has no more standing with the society than someone who

#### Post waste for seller

**From Mr L. Oakley**  
Sir, Recently, with the market at its peak, I decided to sell some of the units I held in a well-known fund.

It is important that bona fide members of building societies likely to be seeking bank status realise that they have to be very persistent if they wish to benefit. The individual who opens many accounts of £101 in different societies will be better rewarded than the steady customer of any one society.

Yours faithfully,  
**MICHAEL CRAWFORD,**  
Honfleur,  
50 Falcon Road,  
Bingley,  
West Yorkshire.

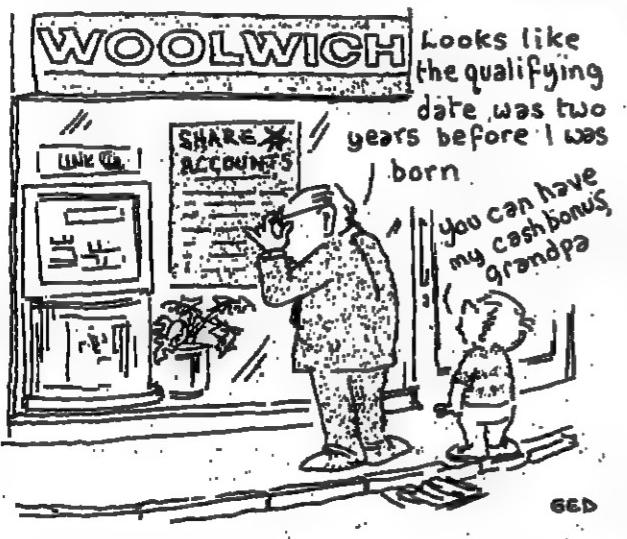
#### Bank's change of heart follows complaint

**From C. Barry**  
Sir, On September 9, last year, you printed an article on my complaint against Lloyds Bank which had dramatically increased the fees on its do-it-yourself PEP, changing its charging basis from a flat fee of £20 to a 1% per cent of the total PEP value.

I am pleased to report that I have now been advised by the bank that it has revised its new charging structure to 1%

per cent — minimum £20, maximum £50 per annum — regardless of the value of the PEP. The article undoubtedly encouraged a major bank to do a U-turn on its charges. I think that this change of heart should be brought to the attention of your readers.

Yours truly,  
**C. BARRY,**  
87 Highwood Gardens,  
Clayhall,  
Ilford, Essex.



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South African leads after two rounds

## Strokes of genius elevate Els to new levels of excellence

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SINGAPORE

THEY were strokes well worth travelling around the world to see. No matter how many more tournaments Ernie Els enters this year or how many miles he racks up as he criss-crosses the globe, he will not hit two better iron shots than those at the end of his second round in the Johnnie Walker Classic here. It was a pleasure to see them.

Both strokes flew unerringly at their targets. While the first feathered down a foot or so from the flagstick, landing as gently as a butterfly on a leaf, the second was driven hard and low by one of the strongest men in the game. It bounced on the front of the green and rolled 60 feet to stop beside the hole.

The birdie and eagle helped Els to move from seven to ten under par, ensured that he finished his second round in as many days without a bogey and gave him a one-stroke lead over Ollie Karlsson, of Sweden, at the Tanah Merah Country Club.

After following Els and Greg Norman almost all the way round, the spectators

might have felt the most important occurrence had been on the 7th, their sixteenth, when Leisl, Els's girlfriend, and Laura, Norman's wife, excitedly beckoned their men towards a grove of trees and pointed at what they could see high in the branches.

"I thought it was going to be a lot of monkeys," Norman said. "It was a bird," Els said. "Don't ask me what sort. It was coloured and had a big

Leading scores ..... 47

beak." The hornbill sat on its branch as still as a statue. Its plumage was colourful, its beak as big as a man's hand. With its back turned on the bird watchers, it was showing a lofty disdain for those gathered 30 feet beneath.

"Thanks for showing so much interest in our golf," Norman, striding away from this ornithological interruption towards his ball, said. Whether he was talking to the bird or his wife is not known.

At the 194-yard 8th, their

seventeenth, Els had the honour. He selected his six-iron and judged to perfection the ball's passage over a lake so that it dropped gently two feet below the hole. A birdie was a formality. On the last hole, Els's drive bisected the fairway and left him 222 yards from the front of the green.

Octopus, or "pulpa", was the name that stuck to Asprilla from his days as an eight-year-old street player in Tuluá, in the west of Colombia, and street wiles, street improvisation, street impulsiveness, appear to have governed the career of this immensely fast, often irrational and sometimes inspirational goalscorer through to his past three seasons with Parma in Italy.

He could, provided that he strikes instant form, bring the championship to the North East for the first time in 67 years, but if his wayward moods get the better of things, he could also contaminate the dream that Keegan is paid so handsomely to deliver.

Keegan will know the risk. In 1972, he was at Liverpool when that club was one of three that overtook the championship favourites and league leaders, Manchester City, when City had been in a similar position to Newcastle today.

Malcolm Allison, having recently nudged Joe Mercer "upsairs" as the City general manager, gambled by signing Rodney Marsh from Queens Park Rangers. Marsh, the maverick, was put straight into the team. City lost impetus, shape and games, and Derby County, the eventual champions, Leeds United and Liverpool all took advantage of their disarray.

Joe Mercer was heard to utter that Allison had "paid £200,000 to lose the championship". Allison admitted that his own impulsive nature had wanted something extra, something to spice effectiveness with entertainment, though he never agreed with one of his successors as manager, Tony Book, the right back in his 1972 side, who three years later wrote in the programme: "We tried every-

thing in our power to make Rodney a successful part of this club. But now he has to go, we cannot permit the problem to fester."

"You can't stop Ernie," Fred Couples said, although after rounds of 68 and 69 he was only three strokes behind the leader himself and making a better attempt than most to do just that. "All we can do is try to catch him." That will be hard if Els plays any more iron shots like the two he played yesterday.

John Daly was courageously putting together a 73 that contained 10 pars, one birdie and the only double-bogey he has had in 36 holes. One of the criticisms of Daly has been that his heart has been rather too faint for the fray. He is now six shots behind Els but by no means out of it.

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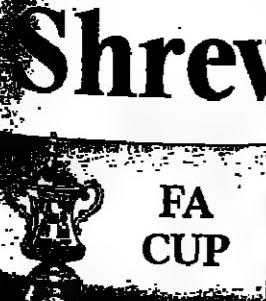
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Merseyside's finest come under Cup threat from two rejected strikers and one resilient manager



By PETER BALL

LIVERPOOL'S international back three are household names, the Shrewsbury Town forwards they are facing in the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Gay Meadow today are not; but, like Scales, Ruddock and Babb, Steve Anthrobus and Dean Spink have caught the eye of international managers. Spink was signed for Aston Villa by Graham Taylor, Anthrobus for Wimbledon by Bobby Gould.

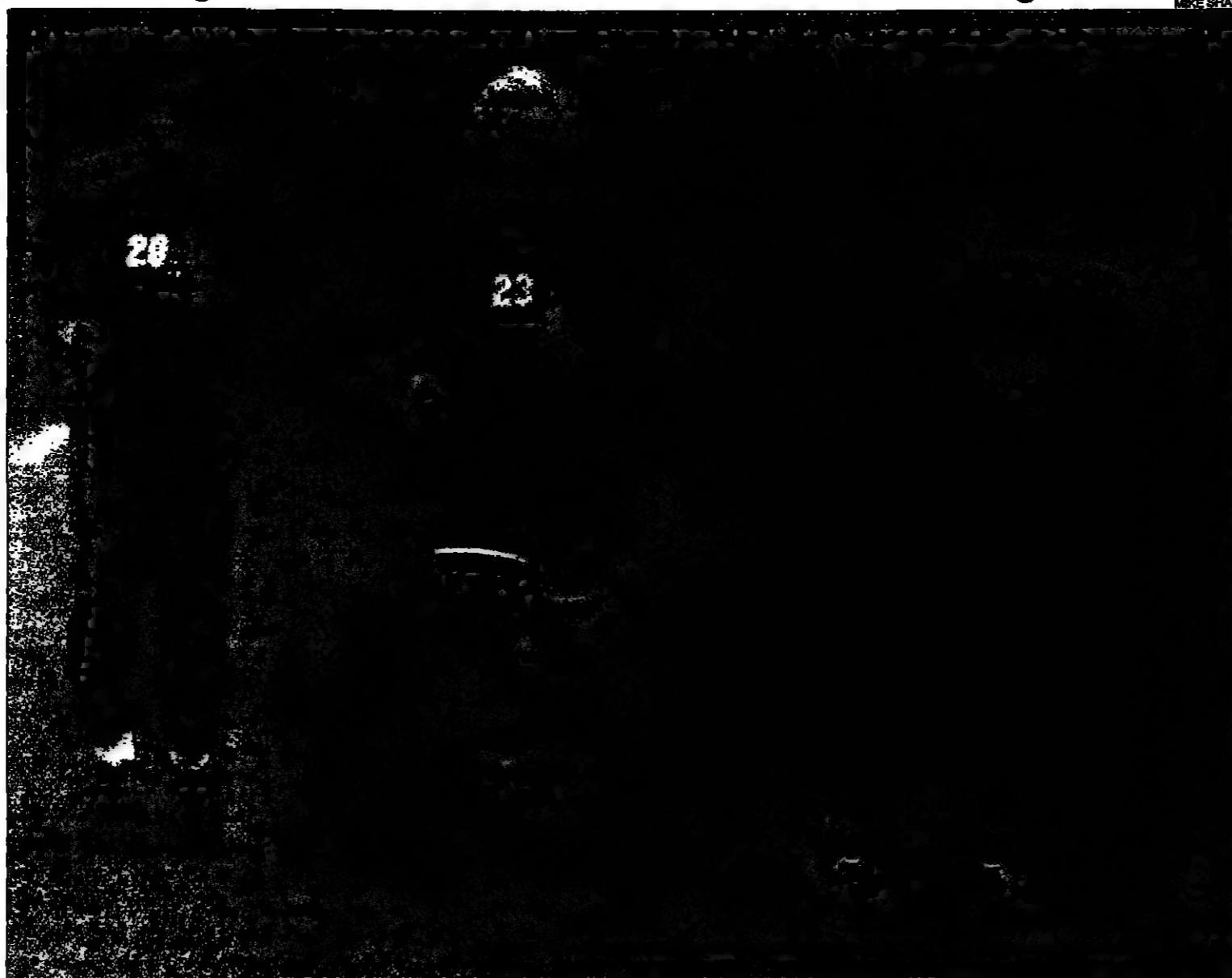
The Liverpool defenders will recognise Anthrobus, for all have played with him — Babb and Ruddock at Millwall, where he started, Scales at Wimbledon, where he arrived as understudy for John Fashanu. That fact alone will give them pause for thought, as will his warning: "If I do play, they won't get any respect off me — until after the game in the bar," Anthrobus said. "I'm going to run myself into the ground against those three."

They had better believe it. Neither he nor Spink quite made it at the top level, although Anthrobus made 30 appearances for Wimbledon under Gould, Ray Harford and Peter Withe, mainly as a powerful left winger in the days when even their wide players were expected to be big and aggressive.

A series of injuries did not help, but when Joe Kinnear sent Anthrobus on loan to Peterborough United, Chester City and Dundee before he finally joined Spink at Gay Meadow, it was a big change. "I'm a Cockney, Old Kent Road boy, and I've moved from near Millwall to living in a barn house on a farm now," he said. "It took me a couple of months to adjust, but my football's slowly improving."

He is loving the football. Shrewsbury have an impressive Cup record, with Ipswich Town and Manchester City among their victims when both were leading teams. But, with Fred Davies as manager, it will be with football rather than up-and-downs that they will try to beat Liverpool. As they ran through their tactics in a practice game, Anthrobus even set up one chance with a back-heeled pass.

"You'd never have got that out of me at Wimbledon," he said, "but I'm so much more confident now. The gaffer has been brilliant to me, he wants me to play. He says: 'We'll get the Wimbledon style out of you.' Some players respond to being shouted at, but others need support, or being taken aside and told: 'This is what you need to work on, this is what you're good at, and this



Anthrobus, left, and Spink are put through their paces by Davies, the Shrewsbury Town manager, before the visit of Liverpool today

is what you are bad at,' and that's what Fred Davies does. And that's why I'm enjoying it so much."

Spink, the club captain, has also found Davies a sympathetic manager. A late developer, he was working as a window-cleaner when his goals for Halesowen Town

began to attract attention, and he signed for Aston Villa.

He scored 17 goals in 21 games for the reserves, but his lack of an apprenticeship told against him, and he signed for Asta Hartford at Shrewsbury.

Two weeks later, Hartford had gone, and John Bond arrived as manager. It was an

unhappy time. Bond did not rate him as a forward, and left him in no doubt. "On one occasion he said: 'I want you to go home for the weekend and think about your career, and then come in on Monday and tell me you're packing the game in,'" Spink said. "He said he'd love me as a son, but

I was no use as a footballer. He used to say I'd never make a forward as long as I hadn't got a scar on my head. But I couldn't see that Gary Lineker's head was covered in scars."

They compromised, with Bond moving Spink to centre half, but a serious thigh inju-

ry, which had briefly threatened his life when a blood clot developed, kept him out for six months; when he returned, Bond had gone, and Davies had taken over.

Davies did rate him as a

striker, and has been repaid,

Spink scoring 20 goals as they

won promotion to the Endsleigh Insurance League second division.

Last season he was the leading scorer, as he is again now, even though injuries have kept him out at times

and is doubtful. David Phillips will replace him.

Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton

midfield player, is hoping to revive his flagging career against Crewe Alexandra at The Dell. After scoring 20 goals last season, he has managed only six this time around and drifted out of the plans of Terry Venables, the England coach.

"I admit my form could be better," Le Tissier said. "I'm having a bad spell and it's a matter of working my way through it. I've got to be positive and believe in my own ability. Everyone goes through a lean patch but I keep being reminded about mine."

Middlesbrough go into their tie against Wimbledon, at the Riverside Stadium, on a dismal run of five successive Premiership defeats. They could be further hindered by the loss of

Juniinho, Bryan Robson, the player-

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Nottingham Forest also have personal problems for their game against Oxford United, of the Endsleigh League second division, at the City Ground. Stuart Pearce, the Forest captain, sustained a calf injury during England's three-day training get-together this week, and is doubtful. David Phillips will

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## Williams relishes meeting the best

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ON WEDNESDAY, Adrian Williams, the Wales defender, faced Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianfranco Zola, the Italy forwards, in a match against Barnsley away, or something like that, but playing United is such a massive game for us. It's always great to pit your wits against international players and, although United will start as odds-on favourites, you never know what might happen. We'll give them respect but not too much of it."

Bobby Mihaylov, the Reading and Bulgaria goalkeeper, is struggling to overcome a persistent thigh injury. Tony Cottee and Brian McClair have been added to United's squad, though Alex Ferguson, the manager, is likely to retain the side that won 1-0 at West Ham United on Monday.

Though the 3-0 defeat against Italy in Turin, near Rome, was a chastening experience for all Welshmen concerned, Williams views it — and the FA Cup fourth-round tie against United at Elm Park today — as vital if he is to continue

his upward mobility. "Italy are a magnificent side with brilliant players," he said.

"I normally return from the Welsh trips to a match against Barnsley away, or something like that, but playing United is such a massive game for us. It's always great to pit your wits against international players and, although United will start as odds-on favourites, you never know what might happen. We'll give them respect but not too much of it."

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Ferguson, the manager, is likely to retain

the side that won 1-0 at West Ham United on Monday.

Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton

midfield player, is hoping to revive his

flagging career against Crewe Alexandra

at The Dell. After scoring 20 goals last

season, he has managed only six this

time around and drifted out of the

plans of Terry Venables, the England coach.

"I admit my form could be better," Le

Tissier said. "I'm having a bad spell and

it's a matter of working my way through

a

lean patch but I keep being reminded

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Middlesbrough go into their tie against

Wimbledon, at the Riverside Stadium, on a dismal run of five successive Premiership defeats. They could be further hindered by the loss of

Juniinho, Bryan Robson, the player-

manager, and Chris Whittle because of

injuries. Juninho has knee trouble.

Nottingham Forest also have personal

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Chang to meet German in Australian Open final after crushing victory over Agassi

## Becker adds refinement to power play

FROM STUART JONES  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN MELBOURNE

THE Australian Open final tomorrow might be acclaimed as a tennis match made in heaven. Michael Chang is forever mentioning that "the Lord" is on his side and Boris Becker is so imposing at the moment that his semi-final victim reckoned that "God could have been up the other end, and he still would have beaten him easily".

Although they have been blessed by favourable draws (each has met only one seed), the pair have merited their survival through an earthly quality, hard labour. Over the past year or two, both have been working on refining their games, which they might already have considered to be sufficiently strong.

Becker, 28, has been an established member of the top ten for a decade and Chang, more than four years his junior, since 1992. Multi-millionaires, they could have spent the rest of their careers accruing further riches and leading leisurely lifestyles. Yet both recognised contrasting deficiencies and strove to eradicate them.

Chang, though the most efficient of retrievers, was short of power. Becker, though intimidating as one of the world's leading practitioners of the serve and volley, lacked speed and consistency in his ground strokes.

Hence, Chang has not won a grand slam title since the French Open in 1989, when he was only 17. Becker was the Wimbledon champion at the same tender age but he has not claimed any of the four crowns since the Australian Open in 1991, which elevated him to No 1 in the rankings.

His resurgence was notable at Wimbledon, where he was the runner-up in July, and at Frankfurt, where he won the ATP tour championship finals in November.

He has become increasingly convincing here, too, over the past fortnight. "Once I'd had ten sets [five of them against Greg Rusedski] in the first two rounds, I felt I'd had enough practice," as put it. Mark Woodforde had cleverly harvested for his own benefit the



Chang stretches for a volley and loses his grip on his racket during his straight-sets semi-final victory over Agassi in Melbourne yesterday

power of Mark Philippoussis and Thomas Enqvist but, against Becker, he was overwhelmed 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 in little more than an hour and a half.

"It wasn't too much fun," the sentimental favourite on Australia Day bemoaned. "It was like facing a bulldozer."

He shares the common belief that Becker is now virtually irresistible and even considered backing his opinion with half of his prize-money, £35,000. "He is blasting the first or second serve and then coming in, and that's the way to beat Michael Chang," Woodforde said.

Andre Agassi agrees. "Boris has the game to take Michael's spot out of the equation." His assertion that he could

not take part in the Davis Cup final because of an aggravated injury was less than persuasive. Before entering the championships, he knocked his knee on an iron stair

mented) Agassi once more gave the impression that, win or lose, he did not care. More than once, he let go a ball that had been booted to move, would seemingly have been within his reach.

He yielded the opening set in only 26 minutes and, in capitulating 6-1, 6-4, 7-6, including the last seven points of the tie-break, in a row, the unforced errors he sprayed amounted to 60. That is 11 more than Becker, Chang and Woodforde put together.

Agassi admitted to feeling "flat", a curious confession in view of the exuberance of Becker, who had overall played only two fewer than his 22 sets. Mysteriously, he claimed that "the wind played

havoc out there". Neither Chang nor anybody else noticed anything other than an occasional swirling breeze.

"I could have gone out and run down every ball for as long as I could and made it look like a close match," he rambled. "Nevertheless, I am not trying to make it look like a close match. I am trying to win it." He could have fooled us all.

The Grand Slam Cup, which is to be relocated from Frankfurt to Hanover this year, is also to move in the calendar next year. It will probably be held in October, rather than in December, in the crowded weeks after the finals of the ATP tour championship and Davis Cup.

BY JOHN GOODBODY

## Limits on racket size in pipeline

FROM MICHAEL CHANG, 5ft 9in, can serve 12 aces against Andre Agassi with a 29-inch racket, just imagine what one of the giants of international tennis might do with an even longer racket.

Players such as Todd Martin, Goran Ivanisevic and Richard Krajicek are all 6ft 4in tall. They could be hitting even more aces than they already do if they were to use 32-inch long rackets, the maximum size permitted under present rules.

So the International Tennis Federation (ITF) has proposed limiting the length to 29 inches. Most rackets in use in both the professional and amateur game are 27 or 28 inches but Chang has been using a longer one ever since he started to play in the Laser class — possibly the Laser or the Finn — may have to be dropped to make room for the new boat.

Chang says that using the bigger racket has helped him to achieve greater control and power in his service, and it was shown to its full advantage in his straight-sets win over Agassi yesterday.

The ITF committee of management will recommend the new limit to its 190 member nations at its annual meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, in June.

The Association of Tennis Professionals has already moved to restrict the length of rackets to 29 inches on all tournaments on its tour as from this month.

In its latest news bulletin, the ITF noted that if Martin, at 6ft 6in, used a 32-inch racket, he would serve the ball from more than a foot higher than Chang could.

An ITF spokesman said:

"We have proposed that the new limit should be uniform throughout the game."

"We thought it would not be right to allow a player to use a 32-inch racket as a junior and then go back to a 28-inch when he moves into the ranks of the seniors."

## New boats sail into reckoning for the Olympics

FROM EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT  
IN MIAMI

PAUL HENDERSON, the president of the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU), confirmed yesterday that a wide range of so-called "high-performance" dinghies are to be assessed for possible inclusion in the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

Up to ten member nations of the world's governing body of sailing, including Britain, have applied to hold evaluation or observation trials of possible contenders for the new class. Henderson told a press conference at the Olympic Classes Regatta here.

Olympic sailing is restricted by the International Olympic Committee to ten events, with around 440 competitors. It is likely, therefore, that one existing class — possibly the Laser or the Finn — may have to be dropped to make room for the new boat.

However, an intriguing proposal from Croatia would avoid this by making the 470 class, at present sailed in separate fleets by men and women, an open event.

Among the top contenders for the new class are the two British-made asymmetric twin-trapeze boats, the Laser 5000 and the Boss. Also in the frame is the Australian 49er, the Flying Dutchman, the RS4000 and the B14E skiff design.

Among the most enthusiastic proponents of the move to include the fastest and most exciting new boats is Mike Jackson, the British delegate on the IYRU council. "There is a formal policy that we should have trials for such a boat — we need to demonstrate the boat to the world in this way," he said. "There are enough people on the IYRU council who believe this type of sailing should be properly represented at the Olympics."

Opposition is expected, especially from Eastern Europe, where the new boats are perceived as too expensive and too thinly spread.

## COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL									
Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * denotes all-hour match pools coupon numbers in brackets									
FA Cup									
(1) Bolton v Leeds									
(2) Birmingham v Brentford									
(3) Coventry v Man City									
(4) Everton v Port Vale									
(5) Huddersfield v Peterborough									
(6) Ipswich v Watford									
(7) Middlesbrough v Wimborne									
(8) Molineux v West Ham United									
(9) Reading v Man Utd									
(10) Shrewsbury v Liverpool									
(11) Southampton v Southend									
(12) St Johnstone v Chesterfield									
(13) Stockport v Derby County									
(14) Swindon v Bristol City									
(15) Wrexham v Bournemouth									
(16) Wimborne v Hartlepool									
(17) York v Chesterfield									
Second division									
(12) Bradford v Notts County	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
(13) Chester v Wigan									
(14) Colchester v Bristol Rovers									
(15) Doncaster v Luton Town									
(16) Grimsby v Chesterfield									
(17) Hartlepool v Wrexham									
(18) Hereford v Bury									
(19) Leyton Orient v Scarborough									
(20) Macclesfield v Hartlepool									
(21) Oldham v Barnet									
(22) Preston v Bury									
(23) Shrewsbury v Scunthorpe United									
(24) Stockport v Bury									
(25) Wrexham v Barrow									
Third division									
(18) Chester v Wigan									
(19) Colchester v Bristol Rovers									
(20) Exeter v Cardiff City									
(21) Grimsby v Chesterfield									
(22) Hartlepool v Wrexham									
(23) Leyton Orient v Scarborough									
(24) Macclesfield v Hartlepool									
(25) Oldham v Barnet									
(26) Preston v Bury									
(27) Shrewsbury v Scunthorpe United									
(28) Stockport v Bury									
(29) Wrexham v Barrow									
Unibond League									
Premier division									
(1) Chester v Wigan									
(2) Colchester v Bristol Rovers									
(3) Grimsby v Chesterfield									
(4) Hartlepool v Wrexham									
(5) Leyton Orient v Scarborough									
(6) Macclesfield v Hartlepool									
(7) Oldham v Barnet									
(8) Preston v Bury									
(9) Shrewsbury v Scunthorpe United									



Saturday portrait: Jerry Jones, by Oliver Holt

## Infamous owner who has sacked his way to another Super Bowl

**J**erry Jones likes to tell people about the cartoon that hangs on his office wall at the Dallas Cowboys' Valley Ranch training complex. It shows two vultures sitting on a branch. One is saying to the other: "Patience, hell. I'm going to kill something."

Jones has never been much of a one for patience. When he bought the Cowboys for \$140 million in 1989 and became at a stroke one of the most powerful figures in American sport, he warned he would involve himself in every aspect of the running of the club, "from socks to jocks", and promptly sacked the team's legendary coach, Tom Landry.

Two years ago, after his money and his trading skill had helped to transform the team from the laughing-stock of the National Football League (NFL) into back-to-back Super Bowl champions, he fired Landry's successor, Jimmy Johnson, after a glorious soap opera of disagreements about Jones's meddling in the running of the team. Imagine Sir John Hall firing Kevin Keegan at the end of this season with Newcastle United newly-crowned champions and you might begin to appreciate the impact it had.

Less than a month after that, he told friends that "500 coaches could have done what Johnson did" and then set about proving his point by hiring Barry Switzer, a man who had been out of the sport altogether for five years and who had never coached in the NFL before. Switzer was the antithesis of Johnson, content to play the role of Jones's yes-man.

This year, Jones's patience has run out with the NFL too. He grew tired of the system that forced each team's revenue to be shared out equally and struck his own advertising deals with Pepsi and Nike, deals that conflicted with the league's agreements with Coca-Cola and Reebok and are likely to widen the gap between the haves and have-nots. The other owners are suing him for \$300 million; he is counter-suing for \$750 million.

There is, however, one area in which Jones has been obliged to bide his time. He may have thought he had seen the last of Johnson when he gave him a \$2 million golden goodbye to go with

his sacking but he has been unable to prevent his ghost from floating over everything the Cowboys do, haunting every minor failure with the promise of what might have been had he stayed.

When Johnson took over as the Miami Dolphins' head coach last month, the stakes suddenly got higher. If Johnson won a Super Bowl with his new team before the Cowboys proved Jones had been right to sack him by winning one themselves under Switzer, the Dallas owner would face humiliation.

Well, the Cowboys will play in Super Bowl XXX in Phoenix, Arizona, tomorrow and only the Pittsburgh Steelers stand between Jones and the dispatch of one more prey. The Jerry and Jimmy Show has gone prime time again.

Jones, 53, looks like a handsome

**'He is in it for himself, for the money, for the publicity and for the profile'**

version of the prison governor in the Paul Newman film *Cool Hand Luke*, the one with the speech impediment and the nice line in "failure to communicate". He grew up in a rough area of Little Rock, Arkansas, where his mother and father would dress him up in a suit when he was a child and encourage him to walk around their store and help the customers.

He gained a master's degree in business from the University of Arkansas, where he played in a near invincible American football team and earned extra money by selling players' tickets at heavy mark-ups. He moved into one of the insurance companies his father had built up when he left college and, by the mid-1970s, he had become an important player in oil and gas, banking and real estate. He got out of the oil business just before it took a dive. He is nobody's fool.

He has used his business acumen to good effect with the

Cowboys, too. He has recovered all but \$10 million of his initial outlay and the team is now worth \$190 million. When he became the owner, only six of the 118 luxury suites at Texas Stadium were leased. There are now 368 suites and most of them are booked solid until 2008. Every home game since the beginning of 1990 has been a sell-out.

But Jerry Jones is no Jack Walker. He is in it for himself, for the money, the publicity and the profile. The team that loves to call itself America's Team has found itself with America's Owner, hard-nosed, ruthless and power-hungry. Even his critics acknowledge he has exploited the Cowboys as a corporate entity more successfully than any rival owner has done with his team.

Popularity, though, has eluded him and condemnation is usually only a beat and a defeat away. Part of the problem was that, before he left, Johnson had managed to undermine Jones's reputation by poking fun at his attempts to involve himself in the signing of players and in decisions on which college students should be picked in the annual draft.

Johnson told a reporter that Jones had come to him after the 1990 season and told him: "I want it to be Jerry and Jimmy, not just Jimmy." Johnson also told friends that he had been under orders to pretend to be consulting Jones when the cameras turned to them on draft day.

This is the heart of everybody's problem with Jones. Most of the United States wants to like the Dallas Cowboys but they see a man at the helm who seems to be using the team as his playground, a vehicle for acting out his coaching fantasies, without possessing any of the qualifications or having the nerve to be candid about it rather than using Switzer as a front man.

"I believe I could coach in the NFL," he said recently. "In fact, if I hadn't been so determined to be a financial success when I came out of college, there is no question I would have gone into coaching."

That admission, apart, though, he protests his innocence vehemently. "I simply saw a knot on



the tire and, before it blew out, I replaced it." Jones said of the loss of Johnson. "He could have fired some heavy internal shots. If he had stayed, there would have been quite a Jimmy and Jerry Show here last season and the damage would have been horrible."

"People who think that it's meddling when I involve myself in the football aspects of this business aren't looking at the real world. Decisions about what happens on the field — between the white lines — are made by the coaches. I never second-guess them. But there is

also the financial area, which includes salaries and negotiations, the acquiring of players either through trades or draft decisions."

"These skills are not unique to football. Until 1989, neither Jimmy nor I had ever made a trade or a draft pick. But, if I hadn't been a pretty good trader, I wouldn't have had the money to buy the Cowboys in the first place. Having said all that, if someone still wants to call it meddling, screw 'em."

And so, throughout this week, while the Steelers owner, Dan Rooney, has remained in the

background, Jones has taken the stage before Switzer at the team's daily press conferences, talking about how practice has gone and how he is mulling over which players may come and go at the end of the season.

On Tuesday, media day, where when the hundreds of journalists covering the Super Bowl interviewed the players at the Sun Devil Stadium, Jones took his place in the stands a few yards away from his quarterback, Troy Aikman. There were almost as many reporters around him as any

## Smith gives Cowboys lethal weapon

FROM OLIVER HOLT  
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

THE supermarket tabloid that festoons the checkouts of most stores here is hot with the news that scientists have found the salty remains of Lot's wife in Jordan, that the crew of the doomed space shuttle, Challenger, cheered after their craft had blown up and that a new deadly virus can turn home computers into bombs. If it had a sports section, it would be saying that the Pittsburgh Steelers have a fighting chance of victory in Super Bowl XXX here tomorrow.

The party is in full swing now: hotels and bars were empty because of the prohibitive prices until Thursday are

full to bursting and sports stars and celebrities are pouring out of Los Angeles and Las Vegas to this sprawling metropolis surrounded by desert and huge outcrops of rock.

Many of them desperately want the Steelers to cause an upset, but the Dallas Cowboys are already acting like the victors most people assume they are going to be. They ride around town in stretch limousines and swagger into nightclubs, barely able to disguise their expectations of a straightforward triumph in Sun Devil Stadium.

The Cowboys are not quite the team they were when they won back-to-back Super Bowls against the Buffalo Bills in 1993 and 1994. They have lost a couple of key defensive



players; their performances this season have been worryingly inconsistent and some of their biggest stars, including the quarterback, Troy Aikman, and pass rusher, Charles Haley, are less than fully fit. Their coach, Barry Switzer, though far from the dour and media portrayal, is still surrounded by lingering doubts about his ability.

But they still have the most

feared weapon in the sport, the prolific and apparently indestructible running back Emmitt Smith, who destroyed the Green Bay Packers in the National Football Conference championship game a fortnight ago and who always saves his best for big games. He is what the Americans like to call a "clutch" player, one who comes up with the important moves in crucial situations.

"Big players make big plays in big games," Smith said yesterday. "Whenever a big game comes up, it's time for players to step up and make big plays. Being in the sport that I love so much, I want to be the player to make the big play. That's my approach to it. I want to be the man that's

going to make the big plays and make things happen."

Pittsburgh have never been beaten by the Cowboys in a Super Bowl and triumphed over them in 1976 and 1979, guided by their inspirational quarterback, Terry Bradshaw. Their slim chances of winning this year, though, rest on the ability of their pass rushers, Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd, to jolt Aikman's poise, and on the hope that their quarterback, Neil O'Donnell, can continue to provide the team with the option of a passing game as well as relying on the running back, Bam Morris.

However, the bookmakers have got the Cowboys down for a 13-point win and Dallas are happy with that.

## Amateurs enjoy traditional art of propping up the bar

SIMON  
BARNES

On Saturday

enough. If we only ever fly the flag of morally irreproachable nations, we will save an awful lot of money on flags.

### Net gains

Do you ever feel totally out of kilter with the times? Lines from a recent Wolverhampton Wanderers programme:

"Nigel is very much the man of the moment behind the scenes at Wolves just now, as the new Internet Cyber Bar is about to come on line. The Cyber Bar will be based in the Johnny Hancock Suite and will be a place where users can surf the net using the most up-to-date computers."

bat and a helmet, and is the brainchild of Amitava Chakravarty, who won the honour from 64 other entries. The mascot is a reflection of the refreshing resurgence of a fine art, leg spin bowling, within which the googly is the perfect symbol for intrigue, unpredictability and the courage to be different," the competition organisers announced.

### Kids' stuff

Cricket has just become a "core extracurricular activity" in Singapore schools. Dilbag Singh, principal of Telok Kurau Secondary, said: "It is a great game that teaches boys how to be gentlemanly. Besides, the basic psychomotor skills can be developed."

### Gambling mad

Some stats to ponder. In the past five years, the United States welcomed 500 new casinos. Last year, Americans spent \$34 billion on lottery games, more money than on cinema tickets, plays and all forms of recorded music combined. Some 125 million Americans visited casinos, more than attended all Major League baseball and NFL games. Americans lost \$40 billion in casinos, more than spent on children's toys.

### Just the ticket

Here's an idea that should be adopted at once by all English football clubs. Mallorca have promised to give season ticket-holders a refund if they fail to win promotion to the first division of the Spanish league. Supporters who buy tickets for the rest of the season will get a reduction if they buy a season ticket for the following season, if Mallorca are still languishing in the second division.

"The promotion is unprecedented in Spanish football," their president, Juan Lacueva, said.

## Buckfield leads Britain's race into space

David Powell meets two men taking a giant leap forward to further the cause of pole vaulting

it. I will go straight to 5.50," Buckfield said. "If the record does not go this weekend, it will definitely go this year."

At 22, Buckfield envisages clearing six metres — a height only achieved by three men — "in four or five years' time". That coincides neatly with the 2000 Olympics. "My ambition is Olympic gold, that is all I ever think about," he said.

It would be a pleasant change for a British pole vaulter to inspire the right headlines. In 1989, Michael Edwards made the front page of *The Sun* for what the newspaper described as "a

sex frolic on stage with a nightclub stripper" while in Barcelona to vault for Britain in the World Cup. He was later dropped from the England team for the Commonwealth Games. Last September, Keith Stock, Buckfield's predecessor as British record-holder, was jailed for six years for drugs trafficking and theft.

The next test of Buckfield's potential will come when he progresses from a 5.0-metre pole. Sergey Bubka, the world champion and world record-holder, uses a 5.20-metre pole and Buckfield will move on to 5.10 this year. He should improve further when

ADRIAN BROOKS



he becomes strong enough to use the stiffer pole.

"The heavier the weight, the more the pole will bend and the slower it will straighten," Buckfield said. "Therefore, the stiffer the pole, the better. It is like a catapult: the stiffer the elastic, the faster the stone comes off it. The poundage of the pole relates to how difficult it is to bend. It is pounds in relation to body-weight that matters. Nick uses a pole which is about 30lb above his own body-weight, compared with Bubka, whose pole is 40 to 45lb above his body-weight."

If Buckfield can make just a small improvement, he should start earning enough not to be dependent on the support of his parents and girlfriend.

"Then I can say it's my proper job," Buckfield said. "I need 5.80 to 5.85 to get on the main circuit."

As a teenager, Buckfield was an all-rounder. Aldershot Football Club wanted him as a YTS player and he was keen on judo. "You rarely get someone in the event who is not good at other sports," Buckfield said. "You need to be a runner, a jumper, a gymnast, strong, agile, well-proportioned." And have somewhere to practise. Had there not been a sports hall close to his home in Crawley that caters for vaulting, Buckfield would have become a footballer.

The facility at Horsham has colourful murals of famous British athletes along the walls. Christie, Cram, Coe, Ovett, Thompson ... and Michael Edwards. "Hopefully, I can win something and they will put my picture there," Buckfield said. With Sutcliffe's help, he may just succeed.

Never mind his head, who's posing for our goalpost??



Many of the Ditchling players

were so overcome that there was some doubt as to whether or not we would be able to field a full side. The game eventually went ahead, and the player we loaned them to make up for the absent scored the winning try.

"Do you think this sort of behaviour will prevent us from playing our full part in the new professional game?"

### Nuclear fallout

The French flag is not flying even as the Australian Open tennis tournament builds to its climax this weekend. Flinders Park staff refused to put it there, because they objected to the French setting off nuclear bombs all over the Pacific. The flag of Roland Garros, the French tennis headquarters, is flying instead. It is a good idea, but it doesn't go far

### Falling reserves

Footballer of the week is Peter Clarke, who scored eight goals for Woodlands in the first half of their match against Pangbourne Reserves — and then had them wiped out. The Reading Football League match seemed to be going sweetly enough for Woodlands as they moved into a reasonably comfortable 15-0 lead, but Pangbourne Reserves, who had started with eight men, then suffered two injuries, and the match was abandoned. They will have to make up for the absent date.

"Do you think this sort of behaviour will prevent us from playing our full part in the new professional game?"

### Googlee's turn

Latest news from the wacky world of mascots. The mascot for the cricket World Cup is "Googlee". He is a cricket ball wearing coloured pads, with a

GOOGLE M

دكتور الأصل

## Wales should not ignore prodigal son laden with riches

The Wales selectors should have found a way of incorporating Jonathan Davies in the squad to play England next week. If the English squad might be rejuvenated by the inclusion of an 18-year-old, Wales on the other hand, might have done the same with a player 15 years his senior.

Welsh rugby has much to learn from Davies. He has fresh ideas and he questions rugby's possibilities more than most of the present coaches. If this raises suspicions about the abilities of the trainers, both in and out of Wales, then so be it. Evidence to encourage a greater faith in them is in short supply.

It should be hoped that Davies's exclusion is not

based on any prejudice, because he is the prodigal son upon whom too much attention has already been lavished since his departure from rugby league. But his return to the national colours, which might be thought to have done the same with a player 15 years his senior.

True, having undergone a hernia operation, he has not played much and it may be in his best interests to lie low for a while. But if should not preclude his selection at some future stage.

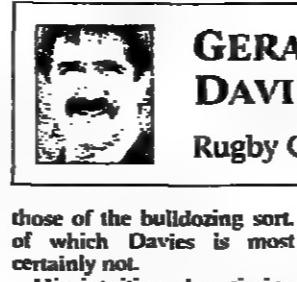
He has played only twice at stand-off half since his return. Cardiff have preferred him at full back and at centre although he has played rugby league in those positions he had not done so in the union game before. Presumably,

Cardiff are working on the premise that, if he could perform there in the northern game, then he should do so with equal facility in union. This is not quite the case. The easy transfer from one code to the other is a perception that is treacherously unreliable.

Certainly, one of the positions he should not contemplate playing again is centre.

The feature of Davies which sets him apart from other stand-off halves is that he is a runner by nature. But the way the game is played, crowded midfields are no place for him.

Coaches want either play-makers who pass, kick and set up others to run — which Davies could be but he would be underselling himself — or



**GERALD DAVIES**

Rugby Commentary

those of the bulldozing sort, of which Davies is most certainly not.

His intuitive play, timing and awareness could see him play with aplomb at full back. Still the most underrated position, it is not always influential. The player is too often too far away. Davies likes to be where the action is.

No, to see the best of Davies, he needs to lie at the heart and mystery of the game, at stand-off half.

Neil Jenkins and Arwel Thomas occupy the position in the Wales squad and both are fine players. Jenkins, for his part, is unfairly criticised, while Thomas has a career to make. The former is unjustly treated with unwarranted attacks on his play, such as the crowd's response to Thomas in the match against Italy.

Thomas kicked the ball as often as Jenkins might have done. Thomas, as he admitted, did not kick with the

accuracy he wished. Yet the crowd warmed to him in the way they rarely do to Jenkins. Thomas's mistakes had a sympathetic response, while the crowd grew impatient with Jenkins. Sport is ever partial and not always just but Jenkins's contribution, in the way that he has accumulated points and the tackles he makes, is unfailingly impressive.

If Davies could not go to wear the national jersey on this occasion, his inclusion in the squad among so many young players might not only have proved instructive but inspiring. He is what might be called a big name.

He has not only played on the world stage and scaled some great heights, but he

has also moved and gripped events in a way no other Welsh player can be said to have done in recent years. Young players would listen to him; he also exudes a cheerful optimism, a dose of which would be beneficial to Welsh rugby.

Having carried a care-worn, hangdog look for so long, nothing would become a Wales team more than to run out at Twickenham with a bit of a swagger. One of the most pleasing sights when Wales played Italy was to see the two Thomases, Arwel and Justin, parading on the Arms Park with a sparkle in their eyes.

Fresh-faced and eager, they were not overawed by the occasion. An air of enthusiasm encircled them. They

looked comfortable in the jersey.

Sometimes, it is instructive to look at a player when the game has briefly come to a stop. There was about the two Thomases a silliness that was not passive. There was a sense of something stirring: an impatience to be getting on with things. Not so much of the greyhounds panting excitedly in the traps, but of the imperturbable athlete about to enter his blocks before the gun blasts off, animation held in check.

There was an unfearing look of derring-do. Which is where Jonathan Davies comes in. He is one of them. He should be around to nurture such talent lest any coach knock it out of them.

## RFU urges clubs to keep cup on schedule

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WINTER, which has already caused a hiatus in rugby union's Courage Clubs Championship, has laid an icy finger on the Pilkington Cup today. Snow in the North, combined with extremely cold winds, has disrupted the best-laid plans and four of today's eight fifth-round ties have been postponed.

Yet the lowest and the highest of the 16 clubs involved remain optimistic that their matches will proceed. Wimborne Park, having invested so much in the most important game in their history — against Wasps — will be desperately disappointed if a pitch inspection this morning forces a postponement, while Leicester are confident that their meeting with Saracens will go ahead.

In any event, the quarter-final draw will be held at Twickenham on Monday, with clubs required to play postponed fifth-round ties at a mutually-convenient date before February 24, quarter-final day. Already West Hartlepool are contemplating the possibility of playing Coventry next weekend, even though this would involve a clash with the internationals.

Both Leeds, who play

London Irish, and Wakefield, who receive the holders, Bath, will check playing conditions this morning, but Wakefield has already appealed for volunteers to turn out at College Grove in case snow needs to be cleared. If the match does go on, there will not be the intriguing sight of brother versus brother on the respective wings.

Bath field Jon Sleightholme, their most recent international, but his brother, Andrew, has not been chosen by Wakefield. Nevertheless, it will be a welcome return for the England wing to the club he represented before joining Bath in 1994, in a XV missing the international quartet of Simon Geoghegan, Mike Catt, Ben Clarke and David Hilton.

Bath were amazed that

Geoghegan came through Ireland's defeat by Scotland despite a strained hamstring, while the two England players, who are due to join squad training at Strawberry Hill tomorrow, when the team to play Wales will be named, are nursing knee and groin injuries respectively. Clarke's absence gives Eric Peters a rare first-XV appearance at No 8, though he will be buoyed up by his part in Scotland's

success in Dublin: the way things are going, Peters will be able to count more representative appearances per season than in his club's senior side.

Joe Miles, the Ireland selector, will hope that the game at Leeds goes ahead for he is due to watch David Humphreys play at stand-off half for London Irish. As a bonus, he will be able to see Richard McCarmey make his debut in the second row for Leeds.

McCarmey, off the BAA Ul-

sterman, late of Sale, is one of

several acquisitions made by the fourth-division club who, on Tuesday, plan the announcement of a ground-sharing scheme with Leeds Rugby League Club.

Humphreys enjoyed such a good University match in Oxford's colours that his international prospects were immediately revived. He played on the winning side in the A international with Scotland last weekend.

Leicester have a bone to pick with Saracens. The mid-Nov-

ember defeat they suffered at

Southgate may ultimately mean the loss of their league title. They catch Saracens in a weakened condition for Brian Davies, their captain, tore ligaments earlier this month

and his place at scrum half goes to Philip Friel, with Tony Diprose leading the team.

Leicester have opted for

Andy Tunnicliffe and Jon Green

playing, which gives Matt Singer his first-team debut at full back. Singer, from Newark, won his Blue for Cambridge

last month. In the back row,

Diprose moves to the blind-side flank with Richard Hill, who missed the league defeat at Orrell where Davies was injured, playing No 8.

Leicester have opted for

James Overend at centre,

ahead of the more experienced Richie Robinson. Midfield is an area of continuing concern, particularly since Stuart Potter, the England A centre, will now miss another six weeks of a frustrating season after an injury at Bedford last Friday.

Leicester

will play again other than in charity

matches or veterans rugby, but Hill

would love to entice him back as a focal point for a club which, if not an Orrell in the making, could find a niche in its Cheshire environs.

"Northwich is a town steeped in football but there is a place for a bigger rugby club," he said.

The momentum the Wasps match

has given us has set the whole place buzzing and it has proved there is support." This week the pitch has

been alive with cameras, a temporary

stand seating 600 has been erected

and a ground which normally accommodates for a good league

match, no more than 500 is an all-

ticket sell-out at 2,500.

Success against Lydney in the

fourth round has clearly given the

locals the taste.

The Park's first three

cup games this season were all away from home, but in disposing of Lydney 26-11 they not only beat a club which stands top of division five (south), but also plays an all-round game like themselves — and, come to think of it, Wasps. "It will be our best ever day," Bob Dean, one of their long-serving administrators said. Who would doubt it?

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STROKES OF GENIUS  
PROMOTE ELS  
ABOVE ALSO-RANS

# SPORT

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

BECKER AND CHANG  
PLAN GRAND FINALE  
IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Home Office may have last word in deal taking Colombian to Newcastle

## Asprilla's arrival remains on ice

By PETER BALL

**NEWCASTLE** United will have to wait for a work permit before they can add Faustino Asprilla to their payroll. Parma's Colombian striker stayed on Tyneside long enough to have a medical yesterday, but returned to Italy without signing for the FA Carling Premiership leaders.

"You can't sign without a work permit," Freddie Fletcher, the Newcastle chief executive, said at a snowy St James' Park. "He has finalised some details, but now he has gone back to Italy."

The work permit should be a formality, persuading the Home Office's immigration department that Asprilla is a desirable resident may be slightly more difficult. If the immigration department is not happy about his criminal record he won't be allowed in," a Department of Employment spokesman said yesterday.

Of the player's ability there is little doubt. "Kevin [Keegan,

He could bring the championship to the North East for the first time in 67 years, but if his wayward moods get the better of things, he could also contaminate the dream.

Rob Hughes, page 42

the Newcastle manager] rates him very highly, and other people believe he is one of the three best players in the world," Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, said, with a possible excess of enthusiasm.

A member of the Colombia team that performed so limply in the 1994 World Cup, Asprilla made a significant contribution to Parma's success in winning the European Cup Winners' Cup and the Uefa Cup. Keegan obviously believes that he can help Newcastle to their first championship since 1927.

But for the £6.7 million that will take his spending this season over £20 million, Keegan is also signing a player with a chequered history on and off the pitch. If the former will not interest the immigration authorities, the latter will.

Asprilla has a criminal record for illegally possessing a firearm after firing a gun in the streets of Medellin. As part



Asprilla, the Colombia international, is met by Newcastle United supporters who gathered in the snow at St James' Park yesterday to greet him as he arrived from Italy

of a suspended prison sentence, he is required to report monthly to the Colombian embassy. Although he was allowed in as a visitor yesterday, a firearm offence means his record will be examined closely before he is granted residency.

The incident in Medellin, where he fired the gun into the air, may be put down to youthful excess, but in conjunction with other incidents, including a violent argument with a bus driver and several car crashes, it makes a

chequered history that may give the Home Office pause for thought. But Sir John is likely to press the case with conviction.

"I am excited like a child again to be joining Newcastle," Asprilla said. "I don't care about what is in the past. The slate is wiped clean."

Keegan, though, may also find that he is a maverick in the changing-room. He has fallen out with both the coach and general manager at Parma. Asprilla's complaints about feeling cold in his early

days in Italy do not bode well for a long stay in the North East, but the honeymoon period may last long enough for Newcastle to win the Premiership and justify the transaction.

The outlay may soon be greater, with a move for David Batty, the midfield player out-of-favour at Blackburn Rovers, still in the pipeline. Blackburn were at pains yesterday to deny that Batty had failed to report for training since a discussion with Harford last Friday.

"I don't know where these stories come from," Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said yesterday. "He trained on Wednesday. With no game this weekend, the players have had time off this week, but I expect him to be there when they report back next week."

Batty has been unhappy since he was substituted against Ipswich Town in the FA Cup replay, and then left out of last week's game against Sheffield Wednesday. Although Blackburn insist

that they have had no official offer from Newcastle, talks have taken place.

Blackburn are understood to want £4 million with Newcastle valuing the player at £3.5 million, still a lot for a player who missed nearly a year with injury and has struggled to recover his form since his return. Keegan, however, sees his combative qualities as a useful addition to the squad, and his experience in winning the title with both Leeds United and Blackburn could be invaluable.

The Birmingham City manager, Barry Fry, is aiming to increase his huge squad by signing the Liverpool midfield player Jan Molby, who has completed a loan spell with his club's first division rivals Norwich City. Fry was so impressed by the 32-year-old Denmark international in his two appearances against Birmingham in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals that he wants to recruit him.

Shrewsbury's hopes, page 43  
Resilient Ridge, page 43

Racing hit  
hardest  
as freezing  
weather  
takes toll

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE freezing weather has curtailed the weekend's sports programme with football, rugby and racing having to postpone or cancel fixtures. The worst weather has been in the north, where there has been several inches of snow, but frost and ice have caused widespread difficulties.

Racing has been hit hardest. Meetings scheduled for today at Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster were called off yesterday, bringing the total of cancellations to 53 for the season. Only the meeting on the all-weather surface at Lingfield survives. There will be inspections tomorrow morning to see whether meetings at Plumpton and Ayr will take place on Monday.

The FA Cup ties, at Coventry City, Ipswich Town and Swindon Town, have been postponed while Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United is in doubt. Although Middlesbrough had several inches of snow, their opponents, Wimbledon, began the trip north yesterday.

Reading were optimistic of staging their tie with Manchester United, while Southampton were equally confident of meeting Crewe Alexandra at the Dell. Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and Charlton Athletic were all expecting to stage their ties as were the holders, Everton, at home to Port Vale. Liverpool should be in action at Shrewsbury Town, while Nottingham Forest and Huddersfield Town have underoil heating.

In the Endsleigh Insurance League, the first division game at Watford and the third division matches at Colchester United and Doncaster Rovers have been postponed.

In Scotland, prospects are worse. Although 14 Tenthens Scottish Cup third-round ties are scheduled to be played today, only three of the grounds have underoil heating. Scottish Football Association officials said yesterday that only six games looked certain to go ahead.

The big loss in the rugby union Pilkington Cup in England is the fifth round game between Rob Andrew's Newcastle and Will Carling's Harlequins. The ties at Leicester, Wakefield, Leeds and Warrington Park are still expected to proceed.

## Premiership clubs earn European reprieve

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

**ALAN SUGAR'S** cussed refusal to accept apparent injustice — and the combined weight of the Football Association (FA) and the FA Premier League — earned Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon a reprieve yesterday. The two FA Carling Premiership clubs had their one-year European suspensions quashed at a hearing in Geneva.

Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and Ned Hammam, a Wimbledon director, spent 20 minutes of Uefa's evidence to the appeals panel of the European governing body. Rick Parry, chief executive of the FA Premier League, and Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, were

Cup last summer. After hearing new evidence, Uefa withdrew the suspensions and replaced them with fines totalling about £180,000.

"The initial decision was made without the knowledge and information we had available today," Sugar said. "The committee members who sat in on the appeal admitted that had that information been available, the punishment would not have been so severe. We don't see this as some kind of victory. All we have done is get back to the position that 90 other clubs in England have anyway, which is the right to qualify for Europe."

Perry revealed that the fines would be paid by all the Premiership clubs, not just Tottenham and Wimbledon. "That was agreed at their last meeting," he said. "It was a collective decision and so the costs will be shared." It was also decided that English clubs will not enter the Intertoto Cup this summer.

"The board of appeal decided to amend the suspension and fine both clubs," Salvatore Cuccu, a Uefa spokesman, said. "This was based on new facts and the comprehensive documentation supplied. The board decided that the sanction imposed had been too severe."

Wales open their 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign with matches against San Marino — away on June 2 and at home on August 31. The programme for Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, then gets harder, with successive fixtures against Holland, the European championship finalists.

Gould and David Collins, general secretary of the Football Association of Wales, agreed the group seven schedule in Amsterdam yesterday. Wales conclude their games in Turkey and Belgium.

On the recommendation of Uefa, the Spanish league has agreed to cut its first division from 22 to 18 teams by

1998. It expanded unexpectedly last summer, after the Spanish authorities demoted several teams to the second division for rules violations and then allowed them to return, joining the two clubs who had been promoted.

Steve Stone, the England and Nottingham Forest midfield player, has signed an improved 3½-year contract at the City Ground. "I've been here 8½ years," he said. "Forest have stuck by me when things were not going well so I've stuck by them."

Phil Neal, the former Coventry City manager, has taken over at Cardiff City, the Endsleigh Insurance League third division club. It is his first job since leaving Highfield Road 11 months ago. Neal replaces Kenny Hibbert, who has moved to director of football at Ninian Park.

**WORLD CUP QUALIFYING FIXTURES:**  
1998: Jun 2: San Marino (away), Aug 31: San Marino (home); Oct 6: Holland (home); Nov 6: Holland (away); Dec 4: Turkey (home), 1997: Mar 29: Spain (home); Apr 26: Belgium (home); Aug 20: Turkey (away); Oct 11: Belgium (away).

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## A commentary on state of the art broadcasting

Andrew Longmore on the advances that should mean more choice on the airwaves

**(DAB)** service launched late last year. In the studio, Charles Runcie, head of evening sports programming, hopped from foot to foot like an animated schoolboy. Martin the technician threaded tapes on reels with practised calm, the crew of the *Midday* with *Mair* show on Radio 5 Live looked nonplussed.

I sat in the corner, privileged to be the only listener in the country who really cared about the result. Fifty yards across Portland Place, Jane Futrell, in charge of DAB affairs, tuned into purpose-built DAB car radio to hear the commentary. The set had been delivered only a few days before and was perched on the sofa, confirmation that these are still early days.

Sport will be one of the main beneficiaries of the new digital technology, which will

allow greater flexibility of programming as well as better reception, and its place at the forefront of the £10 million development mirrors the pioneering contribution of boxing and football towards the growth of the moving picture almost exactly a century ago. The first DAB broadcast came from Blackburn Rovers' 2-1 victory over Southampton in early October, the second featured a complete racecard from Ascot.

In time, listeners to a DAB set will be able to choose their own sport. France v England from the five nations' rugby championship of there is still such a thing, commentary of the game into commentary without interruption. He did so seamlessly — "you join us five

per cent of the United Kingdom should be within range of DAB transmission and the first radios should be on the market, cost as yet unknown. Sport will be very high up our list of priorities," Futrell said. "But we have to do a lot of research first. Find out what people want."

Back in the studio, the first moment of crisis had been reached. As luck would have it, a short corner for Great Britain coincided with the sports news on Radio 5 Live. Jones, one of the station's most polished performers, had to keep up commentary while listening for the cue for his report, then introduce his summary of the early moments of the game into commentary without interruption. He did so seamlessly — "you join us five

minutes into the game and Great Britain ... — and listeners to 5 Live caught a perfect account of the short corner (missed) into the broadcast.

"That's the sort of thing we're looking at," Runcie said.

"How the commentary fits in to existing coverage. How much you can get out of one commentator. Can he manage commentary and reports? At the moment, we're just expanding our existing coverage.

It is a cinderella sports like hockey which stand to benefit from DAB as well as football. There is no way we could justify 70 minutes of hockey commentary at present. In future, we will have the space."

For the record, a late goal brought Britain a 2-2 draw with Holland. And I heard it first.

Jamilia

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TENNIS  
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LAW

Racing  
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## OUTDOORS



Why we  
should  
keep the  
company  
of wolves

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# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

## THIS HOUSE AND CAR COST NOTHING TO RUN



**I**t is the end of a crisp January day. The setting sun is about to give up trying to hold back the forecast frost. Though masked by a cataract of drifting cloud, it is still strong enough to penetrate the west-facing window of 26 Blandford Avenue, Oxford. It is totally appropriate, and not in the least coincidental, that the dying rays have turned the window's stained glass image of the Sun God into a golden illumination.

The Sun God is smiling, and so is Susan Roaf as she turns the key in her north-facing front door. While she has been at work, her house and the sun have been busy making

money. Dr Roaf is the owner and, to a large extent, designer and architect of Britain's most advanced eco-house.

From the front, it looks like any ordinary suburban home, squeezed between other ordinary suburban homes, with just enough space either side to allow estate agents to praise them as detached and v. desirable. At the back of No 26 there is a south-facing roof tiled entirely with solar panels generating enough power to keep Dr Roaf's energy-efficient home warm, cook her meals, do her washing, provide hot water, drive her car — and sell power to Southern Electricity. The

By Jack Crossley

conventional homes in Blandford Avenue can face electricity bills of more than £1,000 a year. Dr Roaf's last quarterly bill was for £10.50 — but it came with a cheque for £30 to cover the electricity she had exported to the National Grid. Even last December, with the coldest weather ever recorded in Britain, Dr Roaf needed to buy in only £17.50 of electricity — and that kept the house on a steady 20C and fuelled the car, which was in daily use.

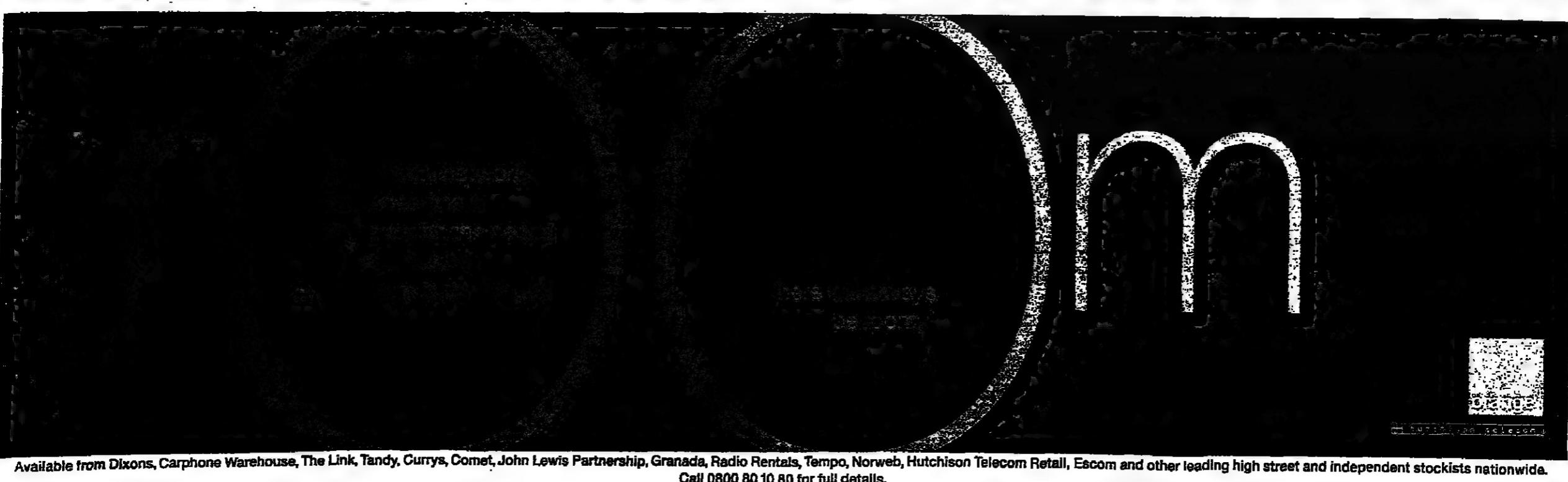
"Everyone said this form of energy efficiency wouldn't be possible with a house in

Britain. But I was determined to challenge that, and it's working superbly," Dr Roaf says. "People forget that, even on the cloudiest days, we still get energy from indirect sunlight."

How is this achieved? Well, it helps if, like Dr Roaf, you are a lecturer in energy-efficient architecture at Oxford Brookes University, and able to infect others who can help with your own energy-efficient enthusiasm. Two years ago it was estate agents: could they find a plot of land suitable for a six-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a south-facing back roof? Not easy when a further requirement was that it must be in the heavily built-

up area inside the Oxford Ring Road. The next task was to identify and locate the world's most energy-efficient equipment and materials: kitchen equipment from Britain and Germany, triple-glazed windows from Norway, 150mm-thick concrete blocks from Gloucestershire, nylon wall ties from Denmark, Corsican and Scots pine from Sherwood Forest and Scandinavian redwood pine and North American hemlock. The house also has a hand-built, wood-burning kakelovn ceramic stove from Sweden, a

Continued on page 3, col 1



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# INSIDE STORY

**Continued from page 1**  
 British Yorkpark gas-condensing boiler, and an Italian electric car nicknamed Hannibal after being driven over the Alps to win the European Solar Car of the Year award.

How it all works is explained at length, and in numbing technojargon, in learned journals (photovoltaic cells, solar thermal panels, photons colliding with electrons in silicon panels, glass-filled thermo-plastic polyester wall ties).

**F**ar better is to listen to Dr Roaf, aged 42 and mother of ten-year-old Christopher and nine-year-old Richard. She is an eager guide to her £200,000 house of the future, which is constantly being invaded by architects, students, technical journalists and scientists interested in solar technology.

Had the house been built conventionally, she says, it would have cost about £160,000. The extra £40,000 covered the cost of the solar roof (about £25,000) and all the energy-saving equipment and materials. The walls, floors, roof and ceilings are super-insulated so that not only sunlight but cooking heat, and even body warmth, are retained within the house.

Sophisticated equipment monitors the heat generated and heat used, but Dr Roaf avoids becoming a high-tech energy bore and takes impish delight in revealing her low-tech method of checking the sitting room temperature — a comic Christmas card which has Santa studying a stick-on strip thermometer.

"Look," she says, "it's 21C on a winter's afternoon and there's no heating on anywhere in the house. Not bad, eh? Light some candles for a dinner party and the temperature goes up."

You might think that when a bunch of sustainable-energy enthusiasts get together to design clinically a totally heat-efficient building you could end up with a clinically heat-efficient building, and not much else. Not very likely when Dr Roaf is on site, and remembering that she is going to live there with two young sons, one of them asthmatic.

The internal finishings of the house were dictated by a desire to keep everything simple, she says. The place had to provide a healthy environment but that didn't mean sacrificing comfort and livability. Uncarpeted timber and cork floors retain warmth and keep down house dust and mites. The walls are simply painted in white, water-based paint, which is easy to clean.

The simplicity of all this made it easy to co-ordinate the rest of the furnishings. Old, solid furniture throughout, comfortable family stuff. The house is designed not only to keep warm but never to get too hot. The thick walls and the huge amount of concrete in the building soak up heat trapped in the sealed environment. The sources of this heat are the sun, the wood stove, the gas-condensing boiler, the cooking oven and people. The heat from this thermal mass is slowly released back into the house. Dr Roaf says, so that the temperature fluctuates between 20C and 25C even in the hottest weather. The walls will stay around those temperatures even if it is 30C outside. It has



□ Dr Roaf's system was designed by solar power specialists Alan Ditchier, of MJP Associates, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, and Bruce Cross, of the Energy Equipment Testing Service at Cardiff University. Solar hot water panels from AES at Findhorn. The house was built by Paul Trimby and colleagues from the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ (01654 702400). They also helped design the roofing system.

□ There are 40,000 homes in Britain with solar systems for heating domestic water, and the number is increasing. Such systems (costing about £2,000 to £4,000) simply use the heat of the sun to warm the water running through ranks of narrow pipes. Dr Roaf uses a different technology: photovoltaics. Photons from the sun collide with electrons in her silicon panels. Their only escape route is along wires

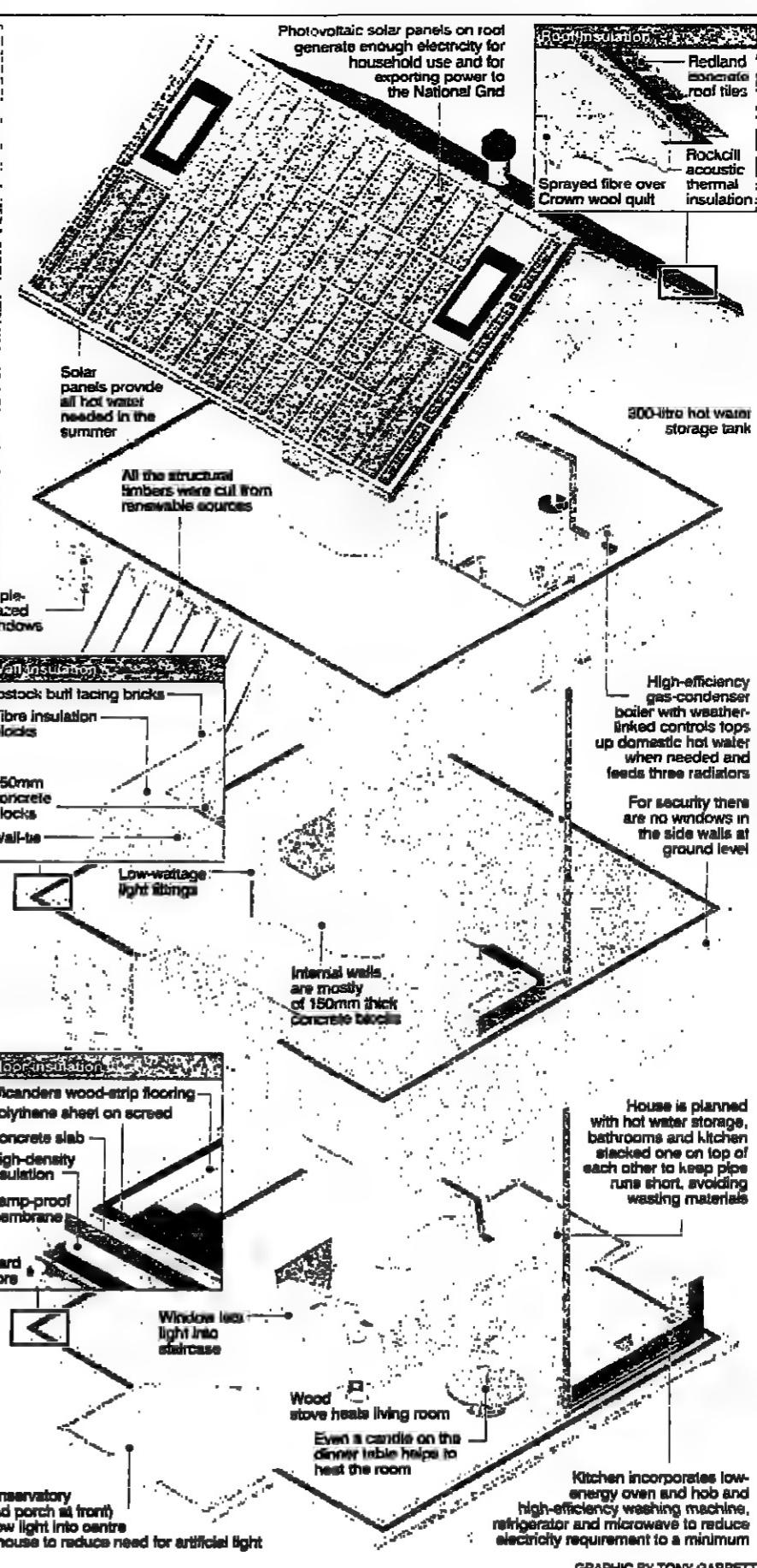
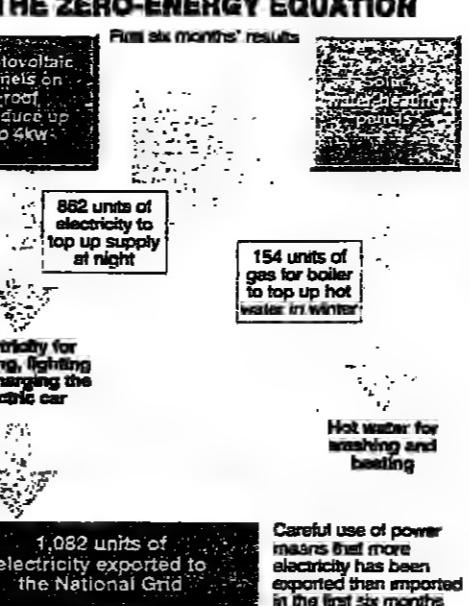
## SOLAR HOME FACT FILE

in the roof. The 48 photovoltaic panels, with a capacity of 10kW, produce 12,000kWh each from BP Solar, Cheltenham Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 7LN (01932 775413). □ Ground-floor insulation: 160mm of Crown floor slab, with 50mm concrete on damp-proof membrane over insulation.

□ Roof insulation: Crown wool quilt and American sprayed fibre-blown insulation between 200mm deep rafters, with 50mm Rockfill acoustic thermal insulation.

□ About 95 per cent of the internal walls are high-density concrete block. The ground and first floors are concrete and the second floor is timber, with mineral fibre between the beams.

## THE ZERO-ENERGY EQUATION



left, "Dr Roaf says, "Frightening, really—and not enough is being done to address the problem. If we could capture just one tenthousandth of daylight energy we would have more than we get from burning coal, oil and gas put together. And without any pollution."

"This way I hardly ever need to import power from Southern Electricity. Most of the time I am exporting to them—at 2.8p a unit. Over the year we will export more than import. That's about 1,000 exported kWhs a year."

Her three-steater Kewei Jet electric car, capable of 40mph, takes two hours to charge and will then cover 30-35 miles. Dr Roaf has asked Oxford council to install electric points around the city where drivers of electric cars can plug in for a recharge. "But Dr Roaf," they say, "you are the only one with such a car." Not for long if Dr Roaf has her way.

The house and car may save her money, but the long-term aim is to save the world. The whole concept will be very useful for teaching future architects about using alternative energy. "I want to see homes like mine becoming widespread, with the technology to build them becoming cheaper," she says.

Apart from saving money, there is the satisfaction of knowing that the power I use is not the product of any polluting process. "I've been teaching energy-efficient architecture at Brookes for five years and I am very aware that we need to learn fast, because the world's energy problems are huge."

"How long do we have? Something like eight years' known UK gas reserves are

to be cold or windy for her not to have the back door open.

The equipment in the energy-efficient kitchen is mainly German: AEG cooker, washer, dishwasher, microwave and fridges. There is a British Gas low-energy oven, and a hob by Stoves of Merseyside. "The fridges uses only 34W, which is nothing," she says. "An ordinary fridge would use five times that, at least. But I do without a freezer; they use a lot. In my last quarter I used an average of only 2.5kW a day for everything—a freezer would have doubled that."

We climb the central staircase, skilfully windowed to avoid needing artificial light in the daytime and needing only three 9W bulbs at night. We enter the loft and Dr Roaf says: "Here's my box of tricks." We are surrounded by electronic gadgetry which is monitoring the life of the house like a patient under intensive care. This includes a solar inverter turning DC

electricity from the roof panels to AC for use in the house, and the Yorkpark gas-condensing boiler system. The boiler is controlled by a small computer linked to the outside air temperature and has a database showing how much power has been generated since the family moved into the house last April.

"Look, it's 4.30pm on a January evening and the inverter shows 250W are being generated. Earlier in the day, when the sun was out, we were getting 2,500W."

**T**he heart of the hot water supply system is a thickly insulated 300-litre tank, and on this winter evening its controls were showing a temperature of 40C—hot enough for a bath. Only three times since April has the water gone much cooler than that.

If all the equipment were to be put on at the same time the solar energy system would not

RAY MAIN



Dr Roaf's solar-assisted battery car can travel at 40mph

Ruth Gledhill attends a carol service to celebrate the season of Epiphany

## Execution of faith at the Tower

**THE SIGN** marked "Instruments of Torture" did little to dispel the windchill from the Thames that made me shiver as I walked under Tower Bridge, over a rattling drawbridge and into the small, Tudor building beside the moat of the Tower of London. Probably because of its location, St Peter Ad Vincula seems a fairly grim chapel, eerie when deserted on a gloomy winter's day. *Ad vincula* means "in chains" and a handful of other churches in England and Wales are so named, commemorating St Peter's imprisonment in Jerusalem.

We were met at the west door by the chaplain, Canon Gerry Murphy, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey, who was that day's preacher and who seemed thoughtful. He later confessed that he was mindful of William Laud, the only other Bishop of Bath and Wells other than himself ever to go to Canterbury, and who was executed at the Tower in 1645, after repudiating the accusation of Popery.

We were there for a rare event in the Church of England, a carol service to celebrate not Christmas but Epiphany, the season which begins 12 days after Christmas and celebrates the coming of the Magi. Epiphany, which ends next Friday with the presentation of Christ in the Temple, has at times been

neglected, but has attained more notice of late because it was the season chosen by all denominations to launch the Decade of Evangelism five years ago.

The service was in support of the Shafesbury Society, a leading Christian social welfare charity.

After the procession the Archbishop came to rest near the stone which commemorates Lady Jane Grey, proclaimed Queen when Edward died in 1553 but executed within a year after Mary ascended the throne. Nearby lie the bodies of Anne Boleyn, Catherine

Howard, the two saints John Fisher and Thomas More, and many others.

Lord Macaulay, in his 1848 *History of England*, described the chapel as the saddest spot on earth. "Death is associated there, not as in Westminster and St Paul's, with genius and virtue, with public veneration and with imperishable renown... but with whatever is darkest in human nature and in human destiny." But this does not do the chapel justice. As the Shafesbury Society gives hope to the hopeless, so this chapel and its inspiring chaplain, through their living witness to those unjustly condemned who are buried there, give faith to those without faith.

I was still brooding on the price of fame, power, or of simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time, when the first lesson, from Genesis I began. "The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," read the altar server. "God said, let there be light." At that point the clouds parted outside and shafts of sunlight streamed through the windows. I noticed that the church was crowded, and all present seemed cheerful. Hymns were sung with enthusiasm, and Dr Carey was listened to intently.

A few clouds returned at the end. It was helpful to be reminded as I left that St Peter had a miraculous escape from his Jerusalem prison.

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Some might ask themselves if their journey to God was necessary, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury. "But there are reasons why the journey is worth persevering with." ★★★★

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## GARDENING

## GARDEN ANSWERS

**Q** I brought back custard apple pits from Madeira and now have a young plant in a pot. I do not have a window ledge free of central heating, and wonder how to give it humidity and warmth. I have tried placing a perforated plastic bag over it to create a moist atmosphere. — Mrs J. Shoucar, Chislehurst, Kent.

**A** The name custard apple is used to describe several species of the genus *Annona*. The commonest is the cherimoya, *Annona cherimola*. You can grow this small tree in a pot, but fruit production is tricky without a warm greenhouse. The cortical fruits take many months to develop and need pollinating by hand. *A. cherimola* is the hardest species and does not require tropical air moisture levels. On the other hand, it will hate the dryness of central heating. Try standing the pot on a tray of moist gravel, and attach a mossy pole to the trunk. Do not use a plastic bag covering, because this may cause moulds.

**Q** In my garden I have what I take to be 'Himalaya Giant' blackberries, which are rampant. The plants make far more new growth than I have space to fit in. Does the new growth contribute nutrients to the crop on the old growth, and how should I train the stems? — J.R. Pope, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

**A** 'Himalaya Giant' is certainly rampant. It thinks nothing of making shoots 20ft long in a season. Varieties as vigorous as this are best trained not in a fan but to the opposite side of the plant each year, to save the worst disentangling of old from new. Cut off the old canes as soon as they have fruited. Weave the new ones up and down on your wires, in a sideways S-pattern, and try not to stop the ends until as late as possible, as this induces sideshoots. You could replace it with a smaller, more manageable variety, such as 'Waldo'. These are thornless varieties such as 'Black Satin' and 'Thorn-free', but the flavour is not as good.

STEPHEN ANDERTON  
replies to readers' letters

good, 'Loch Ness' is, perhaps, the best thornless variety for flavour, and sufficiently restrained in its growth to be fan-trained.

**Q** My patio-tutored stone becomes dark and slimy in wet weather and requires soapy water and hard brushing. I do not want to face that job every year. What is the cure, and should the slabs be sealed in some way? — B. Lewis, Bicester, Oxford.

**A** I would hesitate to seal the paving, because the sealant would soon wear off in areas of heavy use. A peeling surface might look worst of all. Paving in shade is always more prone to algae growth, so make the most of the sunlight first. Check, too, that rain runs off the surface adequately. The household cleanser Flash, applied regularly with a stiff yard brush, keeps algae reasonably at bay, but to kill it properly you would need to use a proprietary product, such as Armilloxol, which is safe to use where tarmac adjoins. There are stronger masonry biocides, which last longer (a season, if you are lucky) but they are less environmentally friendly. Seek further help from a builder's merchant.

**Q** Can I grow a mulberry tree as a shrub in a tub on my balcony? — P.C. Dartmouth, Devon.

**A** The mulberry is a tough tree and can stand plenty of cold, so that should not be a problem. Be sure the tub is well drained, so it does not freeze in a waterlogged state. You will need to prune it back a little every year to keep it in bounds, and to repeat it every year (or two), trimming back the longest roots, teasing off

some of the old compost, and reporting in fresh compost. Tough or not, it pays to protect the tub in winter with bubble film and sacking.

**Q** Last year I raised four kiwi fruit plants from seed and brought them on in the greenhouse where they have grown very energetically. How do I continue to grow them, as I can find no literature on them? — K.W. Beer, Cardiff.

**A** The kiwi fruit, or Chinese gooseberry (*Aegle marmelos*), is a rampant climber. You could grow it out of doors as an ornamental for its large, furry leaves, but for fruiting it needs to be under glass, with a vigorous pruning system similar to that used for grape vines. They can just about be grown in a large pot. If you want good fruit, it is advisable to buy a reliable named variety. For further information, consult the relevant extract from the Royal Horticultural Society's *Encyclopaedia of Fruits* (ISBN 1-85732-905-8, £7.99).

**Q** Why do my outdoor tomatoes split? I have them in grow-bags and watered them every evening through last summer's hot weather. Then they split when the rain came. — G. Stoney, Itchen Abbas, Hampshire.

**A** Hot and dry conditions, followed by heavy watering, leads to a sudden influx of water which bursts the fruit. For all your care with the watering, the sudden arrival, after prolonged heat, of abundant moisture in the air as well as the soil will cause plants to drink deeply and pop their buttons. If splitting occurs even during hot weather, try watering morning and evening, with fewer plants to a bag.

**A** Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

**Stephen Anderton on the wisdom of using trees for climbing plants, such as wisteria, ivy and roses**

**T**here is nothing so strong as a tree to support a rampant climber. In Cadogan Place, Knightsbridge, west London, a wisteria once grew 60ft up into the head of a Tree of Heaven, until the 1987 storm brought the tree down. But gardeners always worry about what damage a climber, particularly ivy, can do to a tree. The usual answer is: less than you think.

One of my strongest memo-

ries while visiting gardens

open to the public last year

was seeing a mature silver

variegated holly at Long

Close, Woodhouse Eaves,

Leicestershire. Into the

holly were growing

a free-flowering

wisteria and a pale-pink

form of *Clematis montana*.

The two were flowering simultaneously and, although the silvery holly foliage did not offer a striking contrast, between the three of them they made an extraordinary tower of silver, pink and mauve; colour poured off in swags and eddied into adjacent trees.

The climbers, in fact, were doing considerable harm to the holly. Evergreens hate

having their foliage smothered

by other plants, and quickly

become moth-eaten or bald.

Left to their own devices, the

climbers would have finished

off that grand and glamorous

holly in a couple of years, and I

do not doubt that careful

hands were at work behind the

scenes keeping that tumult of

growth sufficiently in check

for all contributions to survive.

In Northumberland, after a

recent mild winter, I saw the

Scotch flame flower, *Tropaeolum speciosum*, turning a

dreary Lawson cypress into a

a pillar of summer scarlet. Usu-

ally, the tropaeolum dies down

to the ground, but that winter

its stems had survived right

to the top and had grown on

to make a 25ft pillar of red. No

doubt, the cypress would sur-

vive the odd year under the

less than smothering foliage of

the tropaeolum, and if not,

well... do we need any more

Lawson cypresses?

Wisteria, Scotch flame flower, vines and Boston ivy all leapfrog up twigs on trees. But there are others which grow clinging

to the trunk, to

emerge later at the

top. Ivy is the obvi-

ous case. Creeping

stems on the

ground suddenly

bump noses with a

trunk and up they

go, fast as a car-

toon cat and clinging

to the trunk with aerial roots.

Then, in the safety

of the branches,

they turn sideways

and pause. Sud-

denly the growth

habit changes. The

aerial roots stop

and the stems

branch out from the

trunk, making

mature, flowering

growth. It is this

bushy top growth which is the

real threat to trees. Gardeners

worry that the aerial roots will

suck the life from the tree and

strangle it but, in reality, there

is little harm done. The real

risk is partly from top growth

robbing the tree itself of light,

and from the weight of mature

ivy growth, allowing so much

snow to collect on branches in

winter that limbs break under

the weight.

The sight of mature ivy growth in a tree offends some people, who prefer to see a tree

clear in its outline. But William

Robinson, that 19th-century

proselyte of wild gardening,

planted ivy on the ground

with the clear intention that it

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Summer sensation: a vibrant 'Rambling Rector' rose entwining the trunk of an old pear tree

leaved Japanese vine, *Vitis coignetiae*, or Virginia creeper, and

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*. Either would be more fun than the Chinese gooseberry which, although it has large, fuzzy foliage, simply goes grey in autumn.

*Celastrus orbiculatus* is a rampant climber with insignificant foliage and flowers, but its glory is its orange berries born after the leaves have fallen, and they can look marvellous swagging down from the lower branches of a tree. Both male and female are needed for berries to be produced, so it makes sense to plant only the hermaphrodite

## WEEKEND TIPS

• Cut back ivy and creepers on the house-to-the-roof line, and erect training wires on walls.

• Pot up or replant *Hippeastrum* in a soil-based compost, such as John Innes No 2, and keep fairly dry until growth starts.

• Remove weak or crossing growth on hybrid tea and *floribunda* roses, but delay final pruning.

• Sow early-crop broad beans in pots under glass ready for spring planting.

## Gardens to visit



Lakeside splendour: Claremont

Claremont's semi-formal landscape to one that, within half a century, had been carefully naturalised by Kent and Brown, while retaining a number of its earlier highlights, such as Bridgeman's impressive grass amphitheatre and Vanbrugh's castellated belvedere. After becoming threatened by decay and undergrowth, during the 1970s, Claremont benefited from one of the National Trust's most ambitious garden restorations: a jungle of laurel and rhododendron was removed, the terraces were renovated, Claremont is a revelation in the skills of creating a garden with trees, grass, water and buildings.

■ Potters and Masons, Moortown Road, Nettleton, Caistor (01472 851792). In Nettleton, 18 miles northeast of Lincoln via A46 and B1205. Open daily 9am-5pm.

This is primarily a nursery which is probably known to most gardeners for its mouth-watering stands at Chelsea and other big shows around the country. But any time during the next few weeks is ideal for a visit to look at the dwarf bulbs and other miniature plants in which it specialises. Early delights, such as anemones, reticulata irises and cyclamen are presented in unusually wide ranges. There is also a mail-order service.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

**GARDEN ANSWERS**

**STEPHEN ANDERTON**  
replies to readers' letters

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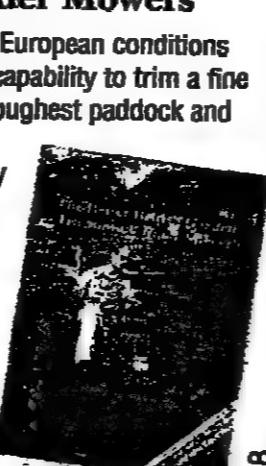
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## BOOKS

7

## NEW IN PAPERBACK



Henry Green: a stylist admired by Auden and Updike

## ■ PARTY GOING

By Henry Green

Harrill, £8.99

FIRST published by the Hogarth Press in 1939, this story of a group of socialites marooned by Stygian fog in a London railway station is a comedy of manners with strong symbolic undertones.

En route to a house-party in the South of France, the friends of rich young Max Adey have great difficulties reaching their rendezvous, but these are as nothing compared with the inconveniences awaiting them as they are forced to bivouac in the station hotel. Tiresome farewells are protracted: someone falls ill; and, worst of all, filtrations are obliged to be conducted in public, without any means of escape short of leaving through one door and returning through it shortly after.

As worldly Max and his would-be inamorata Julia look down from their privi-

leged oasis on the vast uneasy throng of frustrated passengers below, they see a Persian carpet of lost souls. Groups with luggage look like monuments in a graveyard. Within the hotel, farcical cross-purposes abound, as manipulative Angela terrorises her beau and Max's beautiful mistress Annabel coolly paints her fingernails. These women are lampooned unctuously as a fiendishly competitive species, drawing on tanks of self-confidence like camels crossing a desert. But even here the atmosphere of delayed departure for the underworld remains.

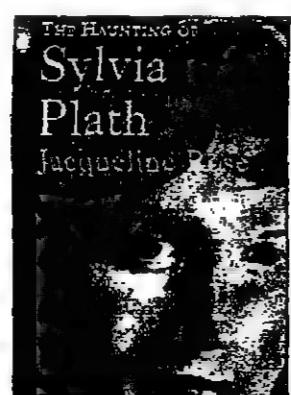
This powerfully idiosyncratic stylist has long been admired by fellow writers, from Auden to Updike. For the common reader, as for the scholar, the pleasures and possible interpretations are many. We can look forward to seeing the eight other Green novels reissued.

## ■ A PERSONAL MATTER

By Kenzaburo Oe

Picador, £5.99

THE CENTRAL character of this novel, whose author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1994, is Bird, a frustrated little man in his thirties, still, significantly, known by his adolescent nickname. He teaches English to college rejects at an Osaka crammer and dreams of escaping to Africa. When his unloved wife gives birth to an apparently brain-damaged child, shock and disappointment drive him to seek oblivion in drink and the arms of an ex-girlfriend, and to increasingly frantic attempts to destroy his son. He is finally forced to realise that he must stop running away and take responsibility not just for the baby, but for himself.



## ■ VOLGA, VOLGA

A Voyage Down the Great River

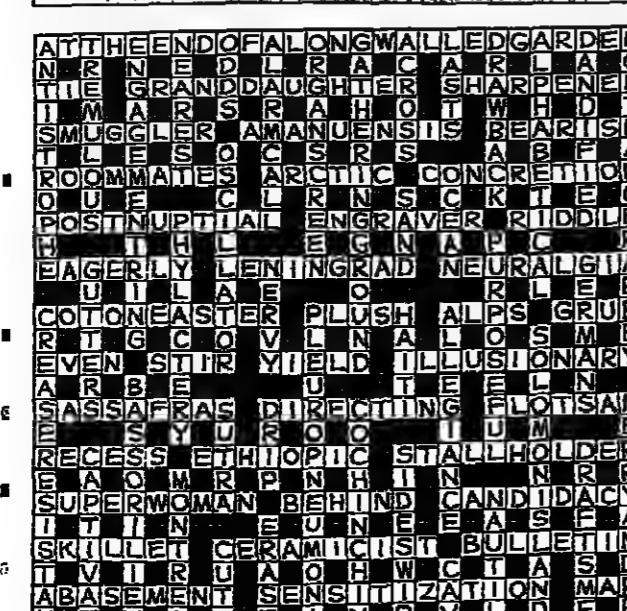
By Lesley Chamberlain

Picador, £7.99

LESLEY Chamberlain's engrossing account of her journey down the Volga does not simply describe her colourful personal encounter with Russia's mythic waterway and the people who depend upon it. *Volga, Volga* also provides a lucid historical exploration of the river and its decline, and an insightful evocation of the culture of which it is a part. The river "parallels a physical dehumanisation and it suggests itself as an obvious metaphor for the decay of the Soviet regime and the spiritual pollution of the Russian populous". A bleak vision indeed, but a book well worth reading.

Contributors: Alison Burns, Fiona Hook, Claire Messud, Tania Glyde

## NEW YEAR JUMBO SOLUTION



The winner of the New Year Jumbo Crossword, published on December 30, is Geoffrey Beale, of Burgess Hill, W. Sussex, who will receive £100 and a Methuselah of Moët &amp; Chandon champagne.

The five runners-up, who will each receive £100, are: Glynn Jones of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire; Sue Blakely of Watton, Surrey; Gordon Lee of Newcastle upon Tyne; Ian Smart of Ledminster, Hereford &amp; Worcester; and Irene Winslow of Doncaster, S. Yorkshire.

## Facing a Parliament of fouls

Edwina Currie's new blockbuster sticks to its feminist agenda, says Elizabeth Buchan

## ■ A WOMAN'S PLACE

By Edwina Currie

Hodder &amp; Stoughton, £16.99

excellent cook. Should she can she devote more time to this paradigm?

Elaine is also worried about her daughter, who is recovering from a rape and the interest displayed in her by Betts, a ghastly hack. Finally, there is Graham, a mental patient at large in the community with a fixation on Elaine. Loaded with — justifiable — ironies, matters are brought to a head over the closure of a mental hospital.

Hints of vendetta, gossip, playful reference to the figures we know and love and skilful plundering of topical issues fuel the jolly Post-Modernist jostle between the real and the fiction-

al. (By the end of the book, a retired Michael Heseltine has lost his hair and Teresa Cormier "has stopped taking the tablets and shrunk to a benign little granny" — crude perhaps, but it has the satisfying crunch of a well-aimed slug.) Clearly, the author understands the ingredients of the "big" read, milks her feminist agenda appropriately and throws in a bit of special pleading. "Ordinary people," George concludes, musing on his love, "do not aspire to become MPs, let alone ministers."

Now we know. Yet what gives the novel its bottom and immediacy is its portrait of life at Westminster: its smothering, exhausting, destabilising ethos, the damage it inflicts on family life, its huge frustrations. Brussels on one side and quangos on the other.



Putting the stiletto into politics

Decisions are taken by others but the Government is held to account.

"I feel as though I'm vanishing," Elaine cries and if she cannot dodge round the posts, then Parliament is a dehumanising place indeed.

## Brush strokes and flesh tones

## ■ SUMMER IN FEBRUARY

By Jonathan Smith

Little, Brown, £12.99

IF YOU are going to put real people in a novel — often a dubious enterprise — artists are the best choice. They are more likely to drink, have sex, be complicated, sex lives and live and work in interesting and beautiful surroundings than, say, structural engineers or microbiologists.

For *Summer in February*, Jonathan Smith has focused on the group of painters who settled in Lamorna Cove in Cornwall just before the First World War. Their leader was Alfred Munnings, a future president of the Royal Academy, but then as a young painter of exceptional promise, reckless, lewd, faddish, toro, redeemed by his talent and his gift for friendship.

Laura Knight, already painting her splashy, vigorous canvases, is captivated by Munnings; her faddish artist husband, Harold, less so.

Oddly, Munnings's closest chum is a diligent Army officer turned land agent, Captain Gilbert Evans, who is everything that Munnings is not: a model of rectitude, decency and restraint. Proving that they have at least one thing in common, they both fall in love with the same girl: Florence Carter-Wood, newly arrived in Cornwall to study with the renowned art teacher Stanhope Forbes.

As capricious as she is beautiful, Florence marries Munnings and then discovers that Gilbert is the one she really loves. The price she pays for choosing the wrong man is a terrible one and casts shadows over the lives of the two men, haunting them down all the years.

This is a book rich in incident and richer still in its subtle and intricate analysis of emotional depths. It is also a meticulous re-creation of artistic life near the beginning of this century. The glittering Cornish coastline, the ravishing flesh tones of artists' models are always described in a painterly way as, for instance, when the sea lifts itself up "in big, long surges of grey lit up by a multitude of white dots", or when Laura Knight, eyeing up Florence, thinks that she has "the tone and quality of a quiet sitting-room". It is as though a fascinating picture has been captured in words.

PENNY PERRICK

## Editor in love child snatch bid

## ■ IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY

By Elizabeth George

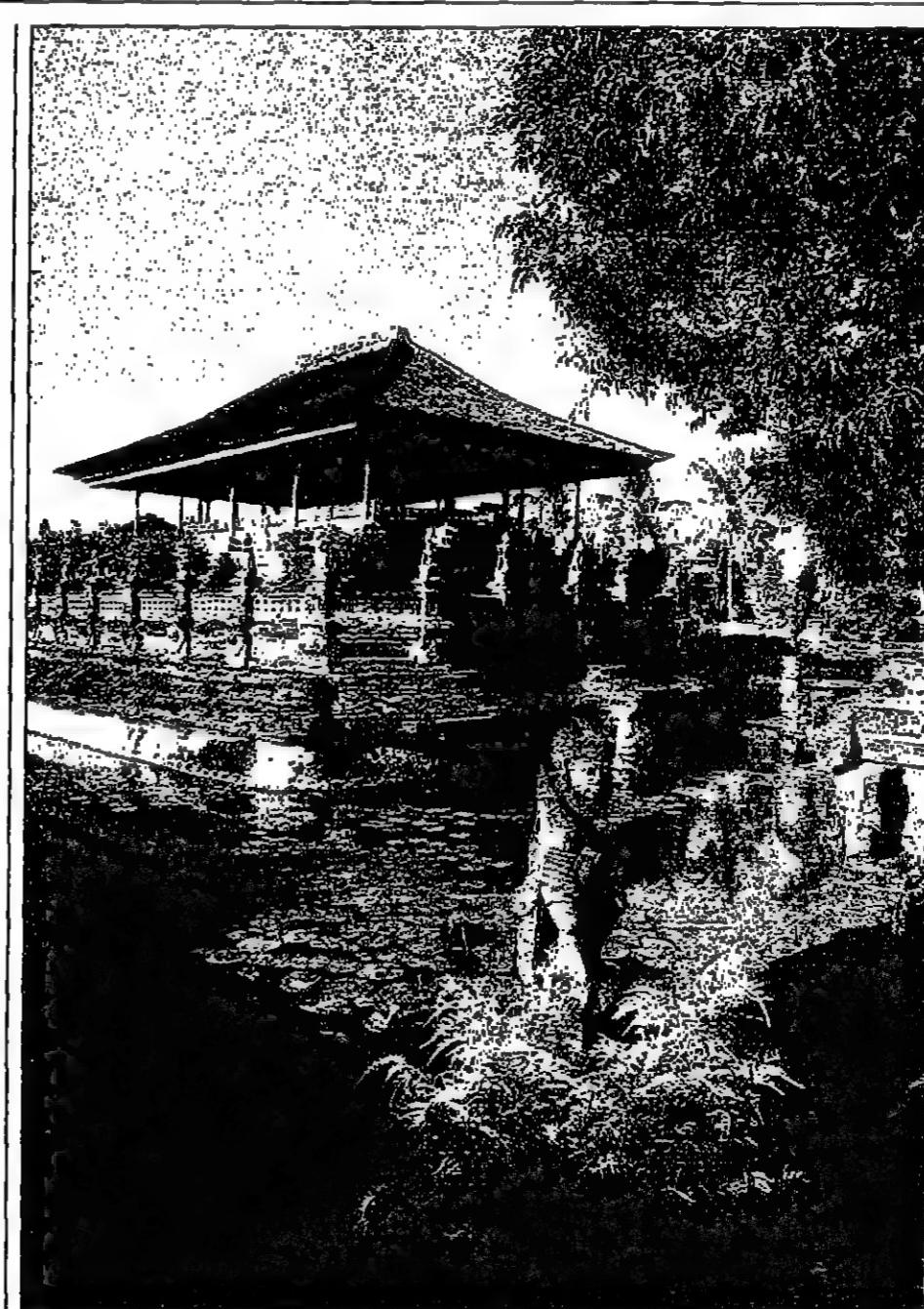
Bantam, £16.99

sional partnership has developed interestingly.

Elizabeth George believes in giving her characters room to develop. Bowen's cold distaste of Luxford, the dishonest marriages which both have contrived and the lack of warmth and understanding towards their children are conveyed with subtlety and fine writing. George is also a superb purveyor of fear, malevolent atmosphere (never has Wiltshire seemed so scary) and warped minds. She has researched well: the worlds of Parliament and tabloid journalism have the whiff of veracity. Above all, she has a gift for sheer storytelling and invention — in spades.

Nobody can accuse George of short-changing her readers in volume. This is a long, intricate book, at nearly 500 pages. Yet so cleverly does she manage the narrative threads, so convincingly do her characters behave on the edge of their emotions, so startling are the twists to her tale that I could have read more.

MARCEL BERLINS

Paradise regained: pavilion in a royal garden, from *Balinese Gardens*. photographs by Luca Invernizzi Tettoni, text by William Warren (Thames & Hudson, £29.95)

Andrew Knight traces the pugnacious career of a Canadian press mogul with a mushrooming global empire

## Black rises out of the blue

## ■ SHADES OF BLACK

By Richard Siklos

Heinemann, £20



Black: happy to share the joke

IN 1985, Conrad Black's company bought 14 per cent of *The Daily Telegraph*. The next year he controlled 57 per cent, and then more. This was at a time when his company was so short of cash that in early 1986 the hard-won *Telegraph* majority almost had to be handed away.In 1987, he bought *The Spectator* and later, for the first time in living memory, made it profitable. In 1989 he purchased the *Jerusalem Post*, Israel's English-language daily which is notably read in New York and elsewhere.

In 1991, he acquired management control and 15 per cent (later raised to 25 per cent) of Australia's press jewel, the Fairfax papers — after a bruising struggle. How long Black's companies can maintain this control seems uncertain from this book, but, in the meantime, he has improved the company and made a bomb.

Early in 1993, he finally added a holding in the large Southam chain in Canada to his extensive portfolio of tiny North American papers, after years of tracking it hopefully. In uneasy partnership with a bigger financier than himself, he now

controls Southam. By Christmas that year he added the *Sun-Times* of Chicago to be an American flagship. And to his mansions in Kensington, Toronto and Miami, he added a flagship apartment in Park Avenue.

Black, in short, is a press tycoon — not yet a large one by some standards, but one who means to be large. This book will have a large readership in Canada, for it is the best of several. Even the chunks I thought I could skip — in Israel, Australia and Canada — told such compelling business stories that I could not put it down. The biography is lively, broadly accurate, none of its slight errors harming the general truth of a well-researched tale.

Friendlier than some would be, Richard Siklos penetrates Black's "thin skin" accurately, using humor-

special line in malapropism, are the stocks in trade of the "verbal punch-ups" which Black "enjoys". He seems constantly to reassure himself that he is a worthy successor to his colourful and, in the end, reclusive father.

The result is odd. Black has sued for libel repeatedly, like Robert Maxwell, and always won well short of the court steps. His financial shuffling of assets has yielded the values necessary to buy newspapers, frequently crossing the line of controversy but never, so far as one can see, of probity. Along the way his hide has become a joke, relished as much by himself as anyone.

All his newspapers have improved, though to hear some in Jerusalem, Sydney and Melbourne, you would not credit it. When he joined the big league at the *Telegraph*, he understood that quality and character can go hand in hand with cost-cutting — in fact, be enhanced by it. That lesson has been spread elsewhere.

Insecurity was a useful tool in the education of the neophyte press lord. "Whenever he met anybody that he looked up to or that he was impressed by, he always wanted to know what they thought of him." Conrad's role to some extent is to ingratiate himself in certain circles" from which new leads, partners or influence might be found. His galactic board meetings are William Buckley says "a little bit dizzy". Knobbed up, adds Black, "with important people who can be helpful".

Sometimes inclined to give the benefit of the doubt, apparently very rich men", Black is, in sum, refreshingly politically incorrect. A joke himself, "he's always laughing, either with or at people". This may surprise many who have been intimidated by his heavy look, wearied by lengthy history lessons, or have sat through his "extremely urbane and boring" public speeches. Black has a lot yet to prove, but this skilful and friendly book may help to give him the self-confidence to prove it.

Andrew Knight was chief executive of The Daily Telegraph from 1985 to 1993 and executive chairman of News International.

## Maybe it's because he's a Londoner

## ■ A WHITE MERC WITH FINS

By James Hawes

Jonathan Cape, £12.99

brief yob-socialist near-equality of college is gone" and you are out there on the dole with no prospects, while former soulmates head off to Mummys spare flat in South Ken. You are left with a future in which an underfunded lower-middle-class background means that "you can never quite look at Life's Great Menu without your eyes drifting towards the Special Offer Set Dinner". It is a short walk from here to the hinterland of drugs and small-time criminal acquaintances, as the hero and his girlfriend/sidekick have already discovered, so they decide to make a do-or-die break for it by robbing a private bank. Suddenly, he says, "the

class awareness, inhabiting classic chip-on-shoulder territory. Yet Hawes pumps so much up-front humour into his characters that they win you over, despite all their infuriating political posturing in this world where being HIV positive gives you extra points for cool. From the brain-dead

Hawes' combative dialogue

pivot on

HARRIET PATERSON

## When is a shop not a shop?

Always on Page 2  
and in Weekend Money

## RECORDINGS

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Martin: no extravagance

Phoebe Snow and Stevie Wonder are all represented. As a balladeer she leaves her most intense displays to the very end, on *Wonder's Make Sure You're Sure and Some Other Time* from the worldly partnership of Bernstein, Comden and Green.

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**The Mercury Story  
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HOW MANY PEOPLE, IF ASKED TO NAME THE LEADING JAZZ LABELS OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY, WOULD PUT MERCURY NEAR THE TOP OF THEIR LIST? NOT MANY, I SUSPECT. COMPARED WITH THE SHARPLY DEFINED HARD-BOP ETHOS OF BLUE NOTE'S 1950s OUTPUT, FOR EXAMPLE, MERCURY AND ITS VARIOUS OFFSHOOTS APPEARED HAPPY TO PURSUE HALF A DOZEN DIFFERENT MUSIC POLICIES AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

IF THAT WAS NOT SO GOOD FOR THE ALL-IMPORTANT CORPORATE IMAGE, IT MAKES FOR A PROVOCATIVE, MULTICOLOURED ANTHOLOGY — NOT TO MENTION AN INDISPENSABLE JAZZ PRIMER. THOUGH MOST OF THE MATERIAL IS DRAWN FROM THE 1950S AND 1960S, DAN

**NEW ON VIDEO:** Gorillas to be missed; nature under a surrealist's microscope; royal suicide made painless

**CONGO**

CIC, 12, 1995  
VIEWERS starved of fantasy escapism may find relief in the diamond hunters, gorillas and volcanoes thrown together in this surprisingly low-grade hokum from director Frank Marshall, adapted from Michael Crichton's book. Sometimes the film tries to be cute; sometimes it aims to scare. The script is usually not up to either task, but the unstarry cast plough ahead regardless. Principal curiosities include Amy, the talking gorilla, and Tim Curry's amusing turn as a shady entrepreneur from Romania. Available to rent.

**KISS OF DEATH**

FoxGuild, 18, 1995  
DAVID CARUSO found his first film role outside *NYPD Blue* as the vulnerable former convict trying to go straight in this partial remake of the famous 1947 thriller. But he becomes wallpaper whenever Nicolas Cage barges in as Little Junior, a nasty gangster bulging with muscles: a performance with all the realism of a circus clown. Barbet Schroeder's film boasts a script by the esteemed Richard Price, but any sympathy for the Caruso character's plight is increasingly trampled by gaudy artifice. A rental release.

**HALLOWEEN**

MIA, 18, 1978  
THE FILM that spawned a thousand bad imitations returns to video in a digitally remastered, wide-screen edition that includes the original trailer. A small Illinois town is the setting; the time, of course, is Hallowe'en, when babysitters and their friends, led by Jamie Lee Curtis, face the attentions of a maniac who likes to celebrate by slicing people with a butcher's knife. Director John Carpenter does his best to frighten the life out of us, though he does not forget humour: there are plenty of in-jokes for movie buffs.

**SURREALISM AND SCIENCE**

Academy, E  
A COMPILATION of the remarkable, beautiful and often unnerving films of Jean Painlevé, the French documentary maker whose short

*Falling' on My Head, Trains and Boats and Planes, Alfie, You'll Never Fall in Love Again, You'll Never Get to Heaven If You Break My Heart* and many more.

Although these are the original recordings by the stars that made them hits in the first place — Dusty Springfield, Dionne Warwick, B. J. Thomas

Too much monkey business: Dylan Walsh shares his reading with Amy, the talking gorilla, in Frank Marshall's low-grade hokum, *Congo*

studies, mostly of marine life, combine a scientist's passion for detail with a surrealist's love for the bizarre. The films were made between 1926 and 1976. Highlights include a gruesome homage to the vampire bat (matched to the music of Duke Ellington) and various magnified studies, in glorious colour, of the sexual behaviour of octopuses and shellfish. You may never want to eat seafood again.

■ MAYERLING

Lumière, PG, 1969  
CINEMA'S third rendition of Crown Prince Rudolf's misalliance with a commoner is not so much a slice of history, more a slice of cake: the film is top-heavy with imperial bric-a-brac, ornate scenery and tearful music from Francis Lai. Omar Sharif and Catherine Deneuve, as the star-crossed lovers, look very pretty but drown among the trap-

pings: the performance you notice above all is James Robertson Justice's jovial Prince of Wales. Also starring Ava Gardner. Directed by Terence Young.

**TALES OF ORDINARY MADNESS**

Art House, 18, 1981  
THE TALES, derived from Charles Bukowski's writings, are spun by a sodden American poet staggering

through life with a bottle in his hand, self-pity on his lips and lust in his head. Bert Gazzara shows little flair in the role, while Italian director Marco Ferreri, once a byword for purposeful anarchy, merely offers the inert presentation of unendifying shocks. Woe betide us if he ever tackles extraordinary madness.

GEOFF BROWN

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**POP SINGLE**

David Sinclair

**DUFFY**

Needle Mythology

Indolent DUFF 004★

SEVENTEEN years after he dropped out of Duran Duran and 11 years since his only hits (*Kiss Me and Icing on the Cake*), time is not on Stephen Duffy's side. Timing is not his strong point either, and although his self-titled album, released last August, bore all the hallmarks of classic British pop, trying to smuggle him into the charts under the Britpop banner never looked like a serious ploy.

But you cannot blame him for trying, and his new single, *Needle Mythology*, is a crisp tune that falls somewhere between the orthodox song



Duffy: well-intentioned

writing style of Squeeze and the more up-to-date sound of, say, the Lightning Seeds.

Its anti-heroic lyric is well-intended if rather literal: "Why make your drug of choice your goodbye to the world?" — but Duffy sings it with just the right degree of world-weary detachment, while guitars and an electric piano twinkle brightly.

It is a deft, understated piece, and again Duffy has captured a mood that is more timeless than timely.

**20TH CENTURY**

Barry Millington

**CORIGLIANO/ SCHWANTNER/ FOSS**

American Landscapes: Guitar Concertos

Isbin/Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra/Wolff

Virgin VC 55083 2+★

FEW guitarists have done more to expand the repertoire for their instrument than the brilliant virtuoso Sharon Isbin. Certainly Isbin has

commissioned more concertos for the guitar than anybody else, and three of them — all by American composers — are here in premiere recordings. All three make imaginative use of the intimate nature of the guitar, with the result that these are essentially pieces of evocation and fantasy rather than vehicles for display.

John Corigliano, best known for his opera *The Ghosts of Versailles*, takes the opportunity to retreat from the spotlight, looking back across the centuries for his inspiration to the courtly love tradition of the medieval troubadours. His *Troubadour*, subtitled *Variations for Guitar and Orchestra*, conjures the sonorities of that world, subtly dissolving them into a nostalgic haze.

Joseph Schwantner's *From Afar* has more drama, but also a strong feeling for colour and atmosphere, superbly caught by Isbin and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra under Hugh Wolff. Lukas Foss's *American Landscapes for Guitar and Orchestra* is different again. Drawing on the folksy American tradition to which the guitar is central, Foss intercuts pastoral sequences with snatches of jigs and reels. Nifty fingerwork and improvisatory skills are called for in the spirited finale, which whisks to an anarchically Ivesian conclusion amid strains of *America the Beautiful*.

■ KREMERATA MUSICA

Mahler, Schoenberg, Webern, etc  
Kremer/Maisenberg/  
Meyer, etc  
DG 447 112-2★★★

THIS IS LIKE AN EXUBERANT LITTLE CHAMBER-MUSIC FESTIVAL ON DISC WORKS BY MAHLER, SCHOENBERG, BERG AND WEBERN. BOUNCE BRIGHT LIGHT OFF EACH OTHER IN THESE SPIRIT-CLEANSING PERFORMANCES BY VIOLINIST GIDON KREMER AND FRIENDS. THE INNOCENT EAR WOULD BE HARD PUT TO IDENTIFY THE COMPOSER OF THE 1976 *PIANO QUARTET* OF TRACK ONE; BUT THIS

JOHN HARGREAVES DAMNING THE COURTIERS IN *RIGOLETTO* SOUNDS LIKE NOEL COWARD BUCKING UP THE CHAPS IN *IN WHICH WE SERVE* AND GLADYS RIPLEY CURSING EBOLI'S FATAL BEAUTY IN *DON CARLOS*. HADN'T HE BEEN AN IRITATION OF A HOSTESS WHOSE CUCUMBER SANDWICHES ARE NOT QUITE RIGHT. BUT THERE ARE TREASURES ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE TENORS. HEDDIE NASH IS PRESENT, SHOWING EXQUISITE AND SUSTAINED MEZZA VOICE IN NADIR'S ARIA FROM *THE PEARL FISHERS*. DAVID LLOYD, A COLLEAGUE AT PREWAR GLYNDEBOURNE, LESS WELL KNOWN BUT WITH A WEIGHTIER VOICE, COMES ACROSS AS AN EXPERT MOZARTIAN. AND THERE IS JAMES JOHNSON, SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE COVENT GARDEN CAST HIM OPPOSITE CALLAS, ROBUST AND EASY IN *THE BARBERED BRIDE*.

THE COMMONWEALTH SINGERS INCLUDE JOAN HAMMOND IN A VERY EARLY RECORDING OF *O MY BELOVED FATHER*, THE PUCCINI THAT WAS TO BECOME HER CALLING CARD — A BIT ROUGH AND SHE WAS LATER TO DO MUCH BETTER UNDER WALTER LEGGE. OSCAR NATZKA, FROM NEW ZEALAND, RELISHED FAUSTI'S DRINKING SONG FROM *THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR*. KARI RANDI AND THE COVENT GARDEN ORCHESTRA BACK HIM IN A WAY THAT SUGGESTS SOME OF THE FLAK THAT THE GERMAN CONDUCTOR HAD TO ENDURE WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH THE ROYAL OPERA AFTER THE WAR MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISDIRECTED.

DENNIS NOBLE, POSSIBLY LONDON'S MOST FAMOUS ROSSINI FIGARO IN THE 1930S AND 1940S, WORKS THE PROGRAMME ENDS WITH BERG'S PUNGENT ARRANGEMENT FOR CLARINET, VIOLIN AND PIANO WHICH MARK THEM OUT AS *ÉMINENCES DEMI-GRISSES* OF THEIR PROFESSION. WHERE THE LINDSAY'S TAKE RISKS, THE EMERSONS VIEW THE MUSIC FROM ABOVE, THEIR PART-WRITING FINELY HONED, CHORDING MAHOGANY-GRAINED AND EACH NOTE TRIMLY TUCKED INTO PLACE IN THE PRESTO FINALE OF THE OP 18 NO 3.

THEIR PERFORMANCE OF THE OP 130, WITH THE *GROSSE FUSS*, IS MAGISTERIAL. THE CONTRASTS OF ITS OPENING ARE CARVED OUT FEARLESSLY, WHILE THE PLAYERS MAINTAIN A CLEAR, STRONG VIEW OF THE WORK'S GRAND DESIGN. THE PRESTO IS SECRETE; THE CAVATINA TREMULOUS WITH A REAL SENSE OF MUSIC HEARD IN THE INNERMOST BEING OF THE COMPOSER, AND THE GREAT FUSS FULLY CAPTURES THE MYSTERY AND AWE OF ITS MAKING.

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THE EMERSONS NOW PLAY WITH AN AUTHORITY AND POLISH WHICH MARK THEM OUT AS *ÉMINENCES DEMI-GRISSES* OF THEIR PROFESSION. WHERE THE LINDSAY'S TAKE RISKS, THE EMERSONS VIEW THE MUSIC FROM ABOVE, THEIR PART-WRITING FINELY HONED, CHORDING MAHOGANY-GRAINED AND EACH NOTE TRIMLY TUCKED INTO PLACE IN THE PRESTO FINALE OF THE OP 18 NO 3.

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WEEKEND SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

# PROPERTY

11

With two of Britain's great landmarks for sale, Cheryl Taylor finds other beauty spots to buy

## Waterfalls, caverns and coves

You may be surprised to learn that many of Britain's landmarks and beauty spots are privately owned. The two best known, Land's End and John o' Groats, were on sale jointly this month for £5.5 million.

Land's End attracts about 500,000 visitors a year. John o' Groats' 250,000. Both have established tourist and leisure businesses, employing a total of 200 people, with a joint turnover of about £3.5 million.

Land's End, comprising 100 acres of pastureland and cliffs, visitors' centre, car parks, hotel complex and holiday cottages, has changed hands three times in 15 years. David Golstone, a property developer, bought it from the Neave-Hill family in 1981, selling it five years later to the property tycoon Peter de Savary, who pumped in another £5 million. A New Zealand company, Gulf Resources Pacific, which also acquired John o' Groats', bought Land's End in 1992 and has since spent £1 million upgrading facilities.

The 20-acre John o' Groats' site, with its 15-bed hotel, bar

and shop, has planning permission to expand the hotel and develop visitor attractions, for which a grant may be available from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Company.

Estate agent Nigel Talbot-Pinsonby, of Hambers Leisure, reports worldwide interest for the two landmarks. The National Trust, however, is not in the market, despite its attempt to buy Land's End in 1981, when it was outbid. The two properties are not considered by the trust to be under threat or in urgent need of care and attention and, therefore, do not warrant trust funds.

If you fancy owning a landmark, there are smaller, and cheaper, pieces of Britain on the market. British Coal is selling part of Offa's Dyke in the disposal of more than 1,000 acres of agricultural land and property in northeast Wales. The 120-metre section of the historic earthworks at Rhosyfelin, near Wrexham, part of 80 surviving miles of ditch and embankment, was built by the King of Mercia 1,200 years ago to mark his

frontier. The agents, Carter Jonas, expect this Ancient Monument, with 96 acres of arable land let on five farm business tenancies, to fetch about £150,000.

In Devon, there are two beauty spots for sale within the Dartmoor National Park,

which attracts about 10 million visitors a year to its 368 square miles of moor and grassland.

Becky Falls, at Manaton, near Bovey Tracey, with waterfall, bridges and woodland paths in 45 acres, is for sale at £1.4m through Jackson-Stops & Staff. The estate, which

includes a restaurant, ice-cream parlour, tea garden, gift shop, car park, owner's house and outbuildings, attracts 200,000 visitors a year and has planning consent for a Study and Interpretation Centre.

Or, you could buy Badger's Holt, an 11th-century former fishing lodge to the Manor of Spitchwick, in 5.5 acres of woodland gardens, on the banks of the East Dart river at Dartmeet, which attracts around 250,000 visitors a year.

The property includes a licensed restaurant and bar, gift shop, ice-cream kiosk, parking for 200 cars, four-bedroom owner's accommodation, gardens with aviary, stable block and fishing rights. Within the National Park, Badger's Holt has commoners' grazing rights for two mares and their foals. The agent Knight Frank is looking for offers of about £750,000. There is no management

agreement with the Dartmoor National Parks authority at Becky Falls or Badger's Holt, which means public access to the properties is at the owner's discretion. Similarly, visitors to Land's End pay up to £5 a head in high season.

Also in Devon, Knight Frank is asking £1.5 million for The Fisherman's Cot, a 23-bedroom hotel, restaurant and bar on the banks of the River Exe, next to the 14th-century Bickleigh Bridge, four miles from Tiverton. It gets about 50,000 visitors a year and has been a favourite haunt of authors and songwriters over the years — it is said that Paul Simon wrote *Bridge Over Troubled Water* there. The property comes with parking for 90 cars, 2.7 acres of landscaped gardens, a licensed riverside terrace, stable block and a quarter of a mile of double-deck salmon and sea trout fishing rights.

Alternatively, Carniglaze Caverns, at St Neot, near Liskeard, part of Cornwall's tin mining heritage in a secluded valley bordering the River Laveny, can be yours for £350,000 through Knight Frank. Quarrying ceased about 1903, but the public were not admitted until 1973 to view the magnificent caverns, which now attract 7,000 visitors a year.

The price includes a two-bedroom cottage, shop, car parking, 6.5 acres of sloping woodland gardens and extensive underground caverns, with former quarry workings, featuring a subterranean pool.

Also in Cornwall, the agents Miller & Sons is looking for offers of about £50,000 for the Iron Age Trehyllis court yard village in 3.5 acres adjoining Chun Castle and surrounded by National Trust land near Newbridge. A scheduled Ancient Monument, it comprises the remains of five courtyard houses, a number of round houses and a 2,000-year-old burial chamber. As yet, the site is not on the tourist track.

• Hambers Leisure, 0171-629 6700; Jackson, Stops & Staff, 01392 242222; Knight Frank, 01392 423111; Carter Jonas, 0171-629 7154; Miller & Sons, 01566 776055.

**FOR SALE**

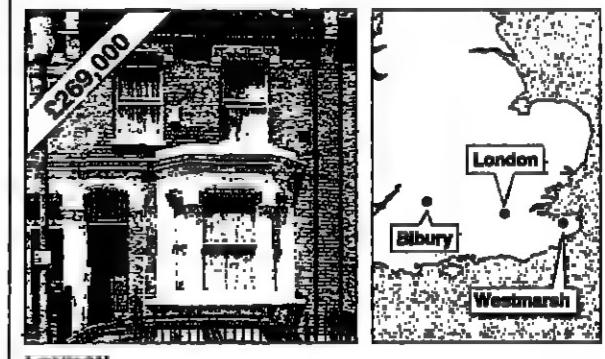
ABOUT £250,000



GLOUCESTERSHIRE Garden Cottage, Bibury. Grade II listed house, with garden, in a conservation area of the Cotswolds. Three bedrooms, bathroom, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, store room, shower room. Garage. About £235,000 (Knight Frank, 01285 659771).

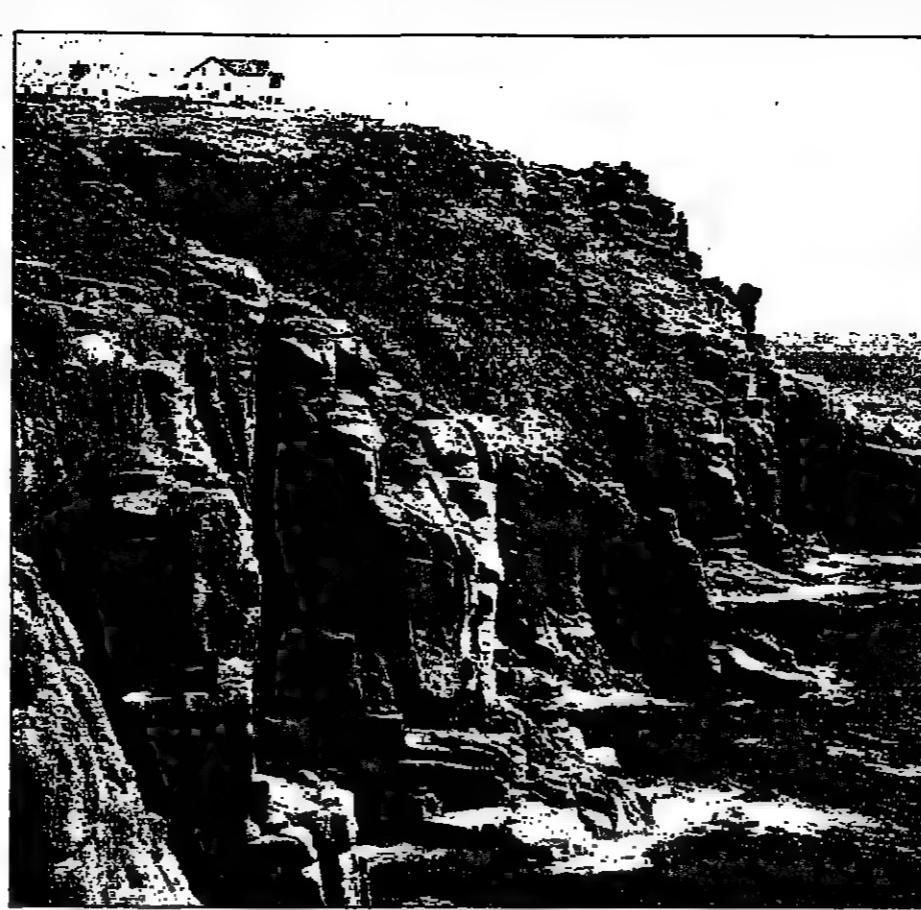


KENT Uphousden, Westmarsh, near Canterbury. Grade II listed medieval half house in an acre of gardens. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, study, kitchen, utility and cellar. Cottage for refurbishment and garage. About £230,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123).

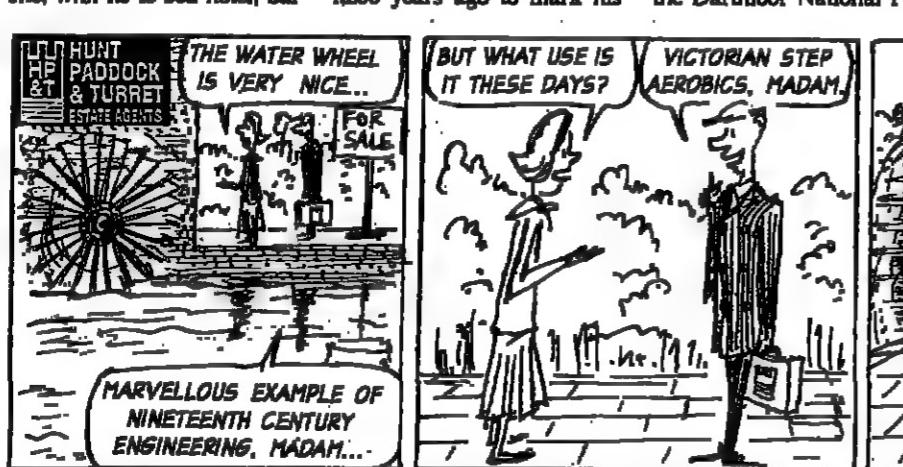


LONDON 4, Burnaby Street, Chelsea, SW10. Period terraced house with garden. Four bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and utility room. About £228,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Land's End (above) and John o' Groats' are up for sale jointly at £5.5 million



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## OUTDOORS

## Scotland's company of wolves

**Wild animals including lynx and beaver may be reintroduced to the Highlands**

In the depths of what remains of the Caledonian pine forest it is not hard to conjure up might-have-been and once-upon-a-times. If it is wilderness you crave, the sense of it is there at least.

If you yearn for the cry of the wolf on the wind, or the slap of a beaver tail on the still surface of a hidden lochan, there are trees there that know what you are talking about. They are mighty survivors. The spread of your arms won't go halfway round their girth, and they can reach back to the Ice Age in 30 generations. They are nature's historic monuments.

One such tree is screened by a small stockade of birches, junipers and lesser pines, which conspire to shield its immensity. But step into the arena that the tree has cleared for itself within the stockade and marvel at its showpiece qualities: the classical flat-crowned Scots pine, the Gothic spread of limbs.

It is, perhaps, 70ft high, 20ft round the base. One root is 2ft thick, its bark is 3in deep in places. If the golden eagle is the king of birds, here is a golden eagle among pines. Such a tree remembers the pad of wolves.

Sadly there are few such trees, but there are no wolves at all. The great forests, the wolf's domain, were felled. For centuries, for as long as man had ceased to be a hunter-gatherer and settled for the life of herdsman, he first feared, then became obsessed by the wolf. Not only did he account for its extinction in the mid-18th century, he obliterated many other species and countless square miles of pristine forest.

The pine forest remnants we know are empty places and amount to 1 per cent of the forest that was. But the tide is turning. Conservation has begun to think big, to contemplate restoration on a scale which almost matches people's old capacity for destruction.

The case for restoring and recreating big forests of native trees has moved from the fringes of the conservation movement to the centre. The old order of deer forest and sheep farm are being questioned, and, emboldened by the reintroduction of sea eagle, goshawk and red kite, a new *cri de coeur* is on conservationists' lips: "Bring back the big



The wolf was extinct in Scotland by the middle of the 18th century. Whether they can be reintroduced will depend on the extent to which the great, ancient forests can be recreated



Lynx and wild boar still prowl the European mainland, and are the more likely species to be reintroduced to Britain

villification and lies could only ever have one consequence.

There is no reliable evidence of a healthy wolf having killed a human being, let alone swallowing grandmothers whole. When wolves have killed, they are known to have been rabid or under extreme provocation, such as their cubs being threatened.

In fact, the earliest peoples of these Caledonian pine forests, especially the Picts, revered the wolf as the supreme

hunter, and carved it as a sacred symbol on their stones.

But the reintroduction of the wolf is probably some way off yet. All the lost species have their champions, and the wolf is the apotheosis on everyone's list, but common to most of them are the more achievable targets of beaver, lynx and wild boar, and all four still pollute the European mainland.

How many species we manage to reintroduce and how soon we might achieve this depends on the scale of forest we recreate or, as Ron Greer, director of Environment Resources Scotland, puts it: "Not before we have the physical and psychological environment sorted out."

Mr Greer, one of the most persuasive voices at the cutting edge of Scottish conservation, says: "We have to build the whole biological basis for the animals to live in, and, more importantly, work out how the animals and people are going to live together." He argues that we must learn again what we have forgotten, the skills of co-existence, and cites North America and Norway as examples.

There the attitude is different, Mr Greer says.

"People accept big, dramatic animals, such as moose, elk, bears and wolves. In a place such as Maine, which is the size of Scotland, people are quite happy to have thirty or forty thousand moose walking about, and 20,000 black bears."

So the first step is what?

"Changing the land use so that we get the primary forest back," Mr Greer says.

What sort of area of primary forest? "Even if we had between a third and a half of Scotland covered, that would probably be enough."

Will it happen?

"I'm optimistic because we've run out of alternatives. It's only a matter of time before the sheep subsidy system goes down the tubes and then we'll be faced with major social breakdown. It has to happen, so it will."

So how long?  
"Fifty years, maybe more. Once we have the environment changed and people's minds up to speed, they might accept wolves. They're not as dangerous as... oh, a high-cholesterol breakfast is more dangerous than the wolf."

You can see captive wolves, lynx and wild boar in Scotland, and in the course of making two radio programmes recently, I eyeballed them all: I saw a lynx (a cat big enough to fell a roe deer) leap 8ft to take a swipe at a passing magpie; I saw a 400lb waist-high boar devour a newly killed pigeon whole; and I looked longingly into the yellow eyes of a dominant old alpha male wolf patrolling a plantation of Scots pines. In my mind as I looked at him was the account by an American writer, Barry Lopez, of an incident in wolf education at a US school.

"That day the children were very excited. A wolf was coming to visit the school. Before it arrived, their teacher asked them to paint a picture of a wolf. They all drew fierce animals with very big fangs. Later the wolf came. Afterwards their teacher asked them to draw another picture. This time there were no fangs. All the pictures showed wolves with very big feet."

JIM CRUMLEY

© The writer is the author of 12 books on Scottish landscape and wildlife, including Badgers on the Highland Edge (Cape, £14.99), Among Mountains and Among Islands (Mainstream, £14.99) and The Heart of Skye (Collins, £8.99).

**Feather Report  
Playing hide and seek**

THE LEA VALLEY bitterns are back. Near Cheshunt, 14 miles north of London, there is a reed-bed where they are now regular winter visitors — four of them this year. And these are bitterns that come with all mod cons — for the birdwatcher, that is, because the reed-bed is in front of a large, wooden hide with seats and viewing slots.

I went for my annual view last week. I don't really like hides, but this is too good a chance to miss — and I was lucky. I had not been in the hide two minutes before a wave of excitement and whisperings of "Where? where?" ran through the watchers. In the reeds it was just possible to make out the shape of a bittern, crouching with its beak pointing at a 60-degree angle to the sky. Most of its plumage blended so perfectly with the reeds that if you took your eyes off it you could lose it. Some people couldn't see it at all.

Then it moved, stepping slowly forward into a narrow, open channel between the reeds, and everybody had a wonderful view. You could see the long yellow streaks with jagged edges on its body, and the dark blue crown. It stalked a few yards through



Regular visits: the bittern

the water, turned back into the reeds and vanished.

Meanwhile, a kingfisher flashed by, hovered, and settled on a pole, its topknot ruffled, its blue back shining. Like the rainbow and the cuckoo's song in W. H. Davies's poem, we had two amazing fisher birds presented to our senses in one rare moment.

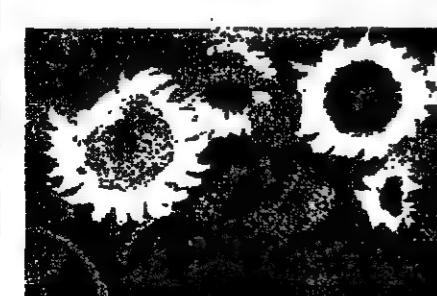
The hide is currently open every day. For details phone 01992 719333.

DERWENT MAY

© What's about: Birders — Listen for the repetitive tee-char call of the great tit. Twitchers — a male black-throated thrush at Weobly, Hereford & Worcester; a hoopoe at Eversley, Hampshire; a king eider at Tayport, Fife. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

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### THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL EVENTS



Admission free  
Passport holders are entitled to a 10% discount on cafe and shop purchases  
Brenton Hall, West Bretton Tel 01424 830302  
Exhibition runs until March 10  
Daily 10am-4pm

BRISTOL  
'Crafts in Avon and the British International Miniature Print Exhibition' at the City Museum and Art Gallery

Two exhibitions in one — a wealth of objects and images to enjoy. The first British International Miniature Print Exhibition was launched in 1989. This second exhibition promises to be just as popular. The works themselves are tiny, but together they convey great richness and diversity. Admission charge to the museum £2.00 adults, £1.00 concessions, children/students free.

Passport holders are entitled to two for one adult admission  
Queens Road, Tel 0117 922 3571  
Exhibition runs until March 3  
Daily 10am-5pm

Passport holders are entitled to a free copy of the exhibition poster  
Whitechapel High Street, London E1  
Tel 0171 522 7878  
Exhibition runs until February 25  
Tue-Sun 11am-5pm (Wed till 8pm)

BRADFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE  
'Survival Island' at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television

Celebrating 100 years of British cinema in 1996 with major exhibitions, events and festival, the museum houses Britain's largest cinema experience. IMAX® David Attenborough's debut on the IMAX® screen offers a chance to explore the natural history of South Georgia. Admission £2.90 adults, £2.70 concessions and children  
Passport holders are entitled to two for one adult admission

Piccadilly, Bradford Tel 01274 727484  
Screenings Tues-Sun 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, closed  
Mon (advanced booking advised) showing until May 1996

WAKEFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE  
'Magdalena Abakanowicz' at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park

A show of recent sculpture by one of Poland's most outstanding senior artists displayed outdoors in the beautiful surroundings of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Abakanowicz's work reflects her experience of war and oppression.

THE TIMES

### SAILING: Edward Gorman on the trials and triumphs of a DIY refit

## Nothing is ever plain sailing

costs down by doing a lot of the work yourself.

Neil and Fiona Tiplady from Redhill in Surrey embarked on exactly that strategy just over a year ago when, after six months of hunting, they bought *Keeshond*, a Holman & Pye Super Sovereign 35 foot ketch, built in 1973. They had been looking for a sturdy and reliable cruising home on which to extend their sailing holidays after completing a number of Royal Yachting Association courses, and enjoying winter holidays abroad. Among other designs they looked at were two Kaval 34s, a Contessa 35 which they thought too powerful for their requirements, a Nicholson 32 and two Olson 38s.

Despite all this, and the enormous

cost in both money and time involved in a comprehensive refit, more and more people do have a go at it, enticed by the very reasonable second-hand price available for late 1960s and early 1970s cruising yachts, many of which are far more elegant and sea-kindly than their modern counterparts.

So long as the surveyor is convinced

the basics are sound — hull, deck and

rig — it makes sense to buy relatively

cheaply and then spend perhaps the

same again bringing the boat up to

scratch. If you are handy at woodwork,

wiring and mechanics, and have

confidence in your skills, you can keep



The Tipladys on *Keeshond*

they began last January, intending to have it all finished for an inaugural sail by August. But with the work still going on this year, they are now aiming at a re-launch this April.

Fiona showed me around the interior last week. "I knew it would take us a long time to get it cosmetically how we wanted it, but I didn't realise how much work there would be," she said. Neil estimates that they will

have spent more than £15,000 by the time they finish, despite doing most of the work themselves. They have also scoured the country for good deals on parts.

The experience of working on *Keeshond* has left Neil with at least three

hard and fast rules. The first is that

every job takes three times longer

than you think it will. The second is

simply to assume the exact opposite.

And the third: don't be surprised if you end

up having a blazing row with your

partner in the boat shed. It's not you or

him or her, it's boats.

The work on *Keeshond* began with

six weeks spent dismantling the

rig, the deck fittings (which had to be

drilled off), the heads, galley and chart

table. The engine was removed, as were the old wiring, piping and tanks.

Then Fiona and Neil set about scraping all the old sealant out of the deck seams, before reselling them after replacing many of the screws and dowels. Neil spent at least two weekends overhauling the engine, changing some of the sump gaskets, replacing the alternator and moving the heat exchanger from the front to the side.

Fiona meanwhile set about the marathon task of stripping back all the woodwork on deck and in the cockpit for revarnishing, and reselling the hatch covers and windows, all of which leaked. While this was under way, professionals in the yard renewed the hull's protective coatings, and Neil replaced all the seacocks.

The next phase, which is still under way, is the rebuilding of the galley to include a double sink and microwave, the rebuilding of the chart table, and the redesign of the heads to include a shower. Still to come is new wiring, the re-installation of the 50hp Perkins engine and a new generator, and seven new water and diesel tanks, custom-made to fit the new pristine bilges.

There have been moments when both of them have longed for it all to be over. But they have never lost momentum and they will be glad of their efforts by this summer. "I'm getting the absolute confidence that I know where everything is and why it is there," said Neil. "We wanted a boat that won't leak, and I wanted the confidence of knowing how everything is attached and knowing it will stay attached."

The biggest worry is the engine, because it still hasn't been run. The other big worry is us — can we handle her? She cast a wary eye over a windy Chichester harbour where *Keeshond* will soon make her first voyage as a virtually new boat.

مكتبة الأصل

## SHOPPING

13

DENZIL McNEELANCE

## Buckle up and prepare for a little belt tightening

**Animal-print belts and accessories  
add style to the sleek  
silhouettes in vogue this season**

**S**kinny "fake snake" and "mock croc" belts are winding their way around the waists of women's fitted jackets and trouser suits, replacing the soft pastel shades of summer with a textured jungle effect. The more exotic belts add bite to last summer's soft Jackie Kennedy look without taking away its sophistication.

Pale blue and pink patent belts have been replaced with brown and black, which work well with camel, a favourite shade this season.

"Women want to look groomed again," says Carol Richardson, fashion spokeswoman at Marks & Spencer. "It is a very lady-like silhouette this winter, like the Duchess of Windsor or Audrey Hepburn. It is a lot more polished than in the past few years."

The thin, fake snake leather belts at Marks & Spencer have a cream-and-brown print with covered buckles and cost about £8 (sizes 8 to 14). They are among the cheaper belts in high street stores.

Mulberry's belts are made from calf skin, which makes them more expensive at £35-£99. They come in lizard and crocodile print, black or brown, with a textured effect called Nile, Congo or Tangier. Its new funkier ranges, Cleopatra Asp and Luxor Viper, have an "antique" snake-print effect and a high-gloss finish.

Stores such as Loewe, Coach and Hermès, renowned for their leather products, stock belts at the top end of the price range. At Hermès, depending on the type of leather or skin used, belts cost from approximately £200 to £1,000. They can be made to order in exotic skins, such as ostrich and crocodile. The company's range of colours includes bright yellow and green; and some of its belts can be reversed. The buckles are detachable for this purpose. The

MORAG PRESTON

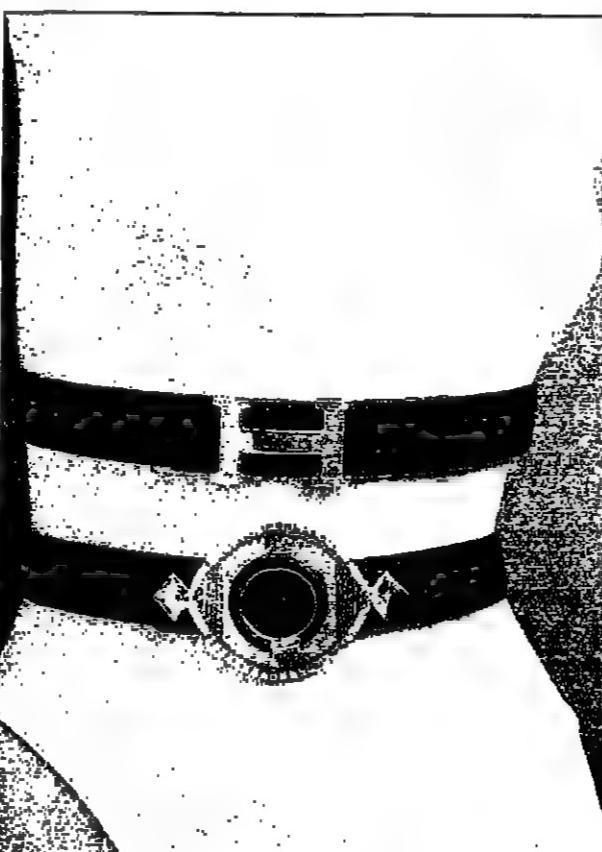
If you prefer your belts loose or low-slung, the latest range of choker belts by Chanel and Prada can either be worn tight round the waist or slung loosely around the hips — or for a price. Alternatively, Otto Glanz's leather belt with a "snaffle" buckle will instantly revive a pair of trousers for a more modern £38.

As part of the "tomboy" look this season, belts come with matching accessories — animal print. A strappy, high-heeled, mock-croc sandal is available at Marks & Spencer. There are also fine leather gloves and animal-print handbags to complete the set. Mulberry has taken the finishing touches a stage further with mini bags, and uses a 1950s-style wrist strap.

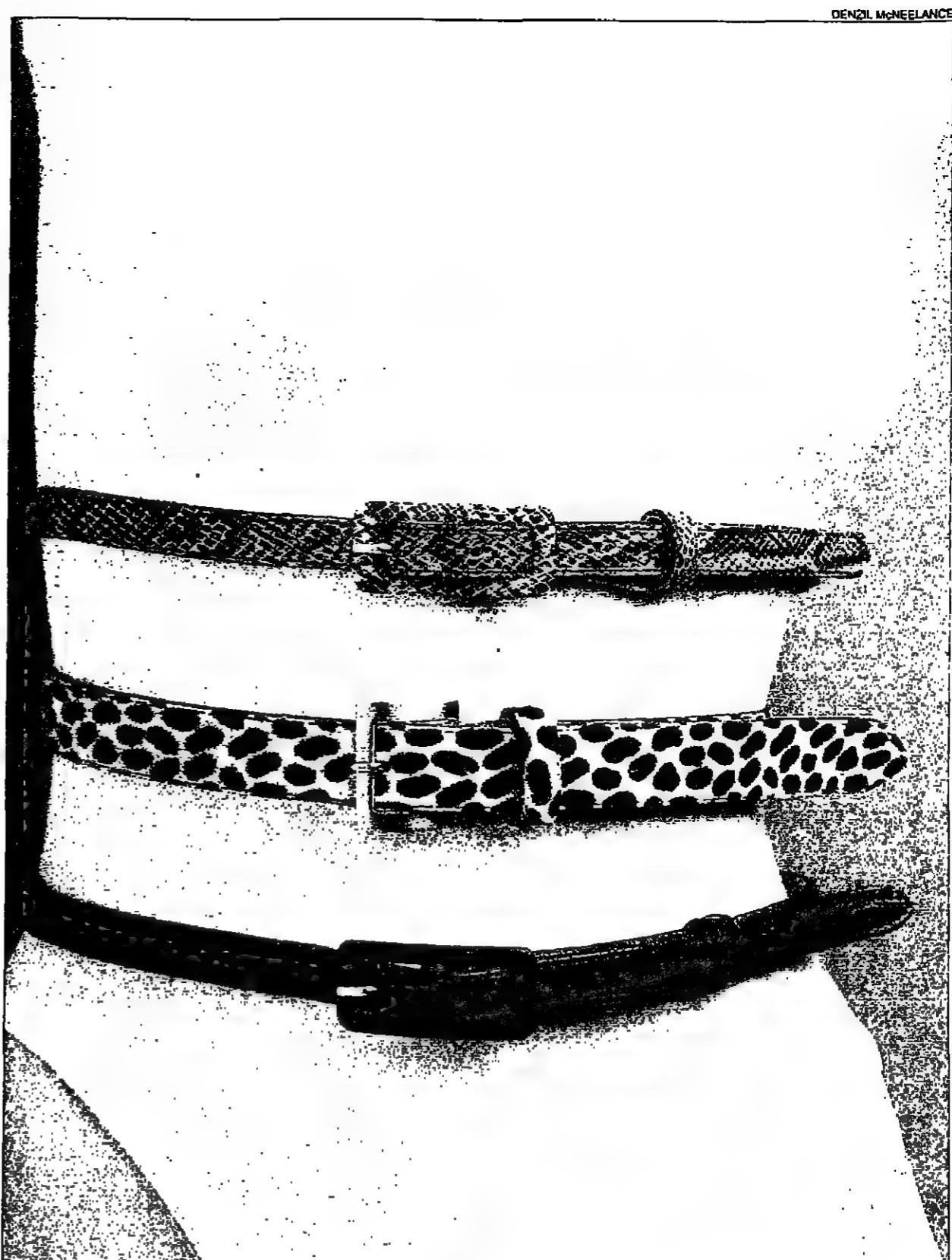
**Hermès provides traditional soft drawstring bags to protect its heavy buckles**



Plastic "fake-snake" belt from Pink Soda, £7.99



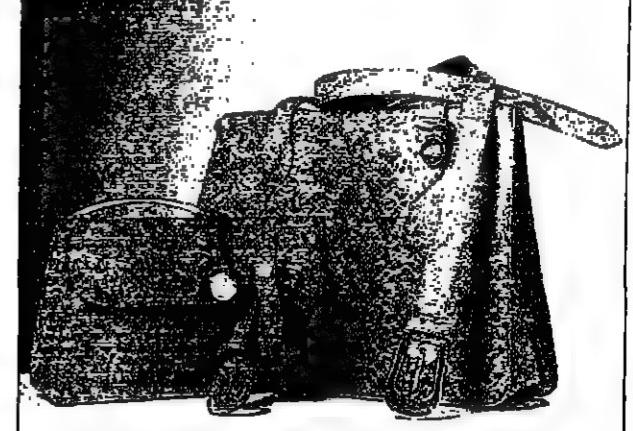
Top-of-the-range belts from Hermès — £195 (top) and £455



These jungle-effect belts from Marks & Spencer cost around £8. They are ideal for sprucing up old suits and jackets

### STOCKISTS

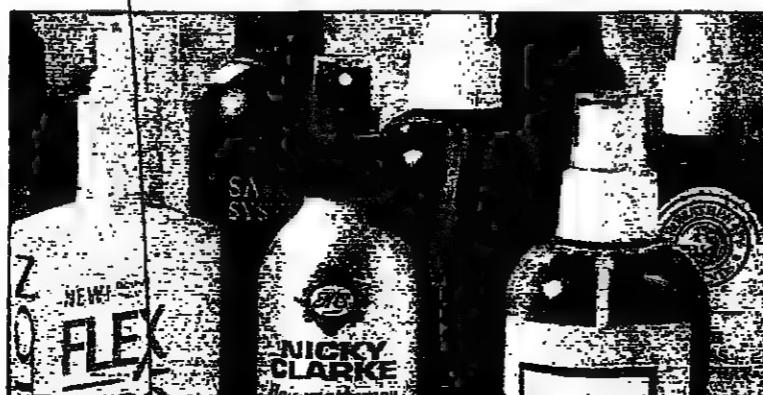
- Hermès 0171-499 88561  
166 Bond St, London W1
- Marks & Spencer  
(0171-435 4422)  
47-67 Baker St,  
London W1
- Mulberry  
(0171-911 3900)  
41-42 Bond St, London W1
- Pink Soda  
(0171-436 9001)  
22 East Castle St,  
London W1
- Otto Glanz (0181-365 1711)  
2 Norman Rd,  
London N15 4ND



Mulberry belt (left, £30), bag (£130); viper belt (£55), bag (£325)

Finding an efficient, environmentally friendly hairspray isn't easy. We tested a selection

## Green dream can come to a sticky end



Pump it up... but you may feel let down if the spray goes astray

**WE KEEP** being told to do our environmental bit by converting from aerosols to ozone-friendly, pump-action containers for products such as hairspray. But is the non-aerosol technology yet up to producing an efficient hairspray?

The frequent complaint with non-aerosol sprays is that the liquid is not dispersed as a fine mist over the hair, but as a sticky mess over the hands. I set out to discover whether any manufacturer had come up with a solution to the problem. I tested several pump-action sprays on my long, fine hair that has a tendency to go limp.

**MICHAEL DI CESARE**  
Super Hold Preserving Spray  
250ml: £1.95 (price per 200 ml: £6.36)  
An American product, recently launched in England. Available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1; and Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. For mail order: Selfridges 0171-629 1234; Harrods 0171-730 1234.  
**VERDICT:** The finest mist I have found on a non-aerosol product. It smells more like eau de cologne than hairspray. My hair looked natural and stayed in good shape all day. None of the contents escaped from the bottle on to my hands. Impressive performance.  
**RATING:** 9/10

**TREVOR SORBIE**  
PROFESSIONAL  
Affix Hairspray  
200ml: £3.59  
Available from Tesco, larger branches of Boots, and from Trevor Sorbie, 10 Russell Street, London WC2B 5HZ. For mail order, or your nearest stockist, ring 0171-497 2025.  
**VERDICT:** Stylish packaging. A very fine mist which dispersed evenly and lightly on my hair and smelt fresh. Contains sunscreen. My hair looked natural and stayed in place all day. None of the contents strayed on to my hands. Impressive performance.  
**RATING:** 9/10

**L'OREAL TECNI FIX**  
Firm Hold Fixing Spray  
125ml: £4.05 (price per 200ml £6.48)  
Available from L'Oréal-appointed hairdressing salons nationwide. For stockists, ring 0181-466 4266.  
**VERDICT:** A compact, handbag-sized

Active Hold Hairspray  
200ml: £9.95

Available from The Tanning Shop nationwide and selected professional outlets, including salons and health clubs. For stockists, ring 0171-493 0904.

**VERDICT:** The bottle was too big to hold comfortably with one hand, which meant the spray went in every direction but little landed on my hair. However, once I had mastered the application, this spray worked well. Hairstyle held without looking stiff or feeling sticky. At this price I wouldn't expect anything less.

**RATING:** 7/10

**REVLON FLEX & CO**

Maximum Hold Style and Shine

Non-Aerosol Hairspray  
200ml: £2.55

Available from larger branches of

Boots, major department stores and independent chemists nationwide.  
**VERDICT:** A spray that doesn't disperse over a large enough area, leaving only patches of sprayed hair even when I held the container further from my head than the 10in mark on the label. The spray did, however, hold the style well throughout the day. The liquid didn't dribble down the container but, after only one application, the nozzle was covered in a sticky residue. Good performance for the price.

**RATING:** 6/10

**FINESSE**

Moisturising Hairspray Extra Hold

200ml: £2.49

Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide.  
**VERDICT:** A good fine mist that distributed evenly on my hair. However, the nozzle started to clog up the first time I used it and had to be rinsed in warm water after every application — I wouldn't want to have to do that every morning. My hairstyle held well for most of the day but had started to drop by late afternoon.

**RATING:** 5/10

**NICKY CLARKE**  
HAIROMATHERAPY  
Extra Hold Styling Spray  
with Sunscreen  
200ml: £3.15

Available from Boots, Tesco, Waitrose, John Lewis, Superdrug, Savacentre, Fenwicks, Selfridges, Lloyds chemists, Moss chemists, Harrods, Jenners, Bentalls and William Low.

**VERDICT:** Stylish aluminium canister which stated that this spray contained aromatherapy extracts and sunscreens. It took a lot of pumps on the handle to activate the spray, which wasn't exactly a fine mist, landing in droplets. Unimpressive application made parts of my hair stiff and unnatural, but didn't touch the rest. It did hold the style, but rather more solidly than I would have liked. Some of the liquid dribbled around the top of the canister.

**RATING:** 3/10

**BODYS SALON SYSTEM**

Non-Aerosol Hairspray for Firm Hold

250ml: £1.79 (price per 200 ml: £1.43)

Available from selected branches of Boots nationwide.

**VERDICT:** The bottle felt as if it had been smothered in glue after I'd used it. The fine mist sprayed onto my hair efficiently, but also leaked out of the applicator on to my hands. My hair looked good and the style lasted well, but I had to free my fingers from the container. Not a good start to the day.  
**RATING:** 2/10

**EDMONDS AROMATHERAPY**

Strong Hold Juniper and Orange

High Gloss Hairspray

250ml: £3.95 (price per 200ml: £3.16)

Available from Edmonds, 40 Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, SW3 1XN, or through large branches of Boots nationwide. For mail order and stockists ring: 0171-589 5958.

**VERDICT:** I ended up with this product all over my clothes and face as the four mini-jets of liquid directed the spray everywhere, but my hair. A cumbersome, square-shaped bottle did little to help. The pleasant smell was the only saving grace.

**RATING:** 1/10

KAREN KAY

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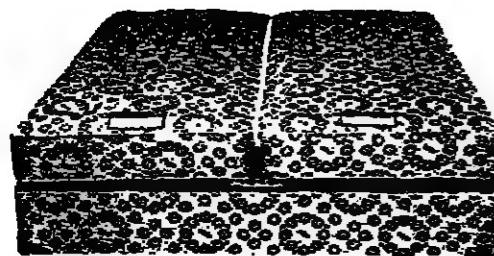
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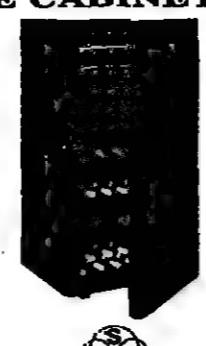
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HOME SWAPS: You don't have to be rich to see the world and stay in the best places, says Ray Hewinson

MICHAEL YAMASHITA

## Foreign exchange deal

**J**anuary in Hawaii, followed by two weeks skiing in Colorado, three weeks in France, 18 days in Amsterdam, then two months in a house overlooking the ocean in California — and it's still only November.

No, we haven't won the lottery. My wife, Sylvia, and I retired five years ago on a reasonable pension, moved down-market and paid off our mortgage. We're better off than the average pensioners — but not exactly rich.

"How, then, can you afford to travel so much?" people ask. It's simple. We seek out the best flight deals, exchange our home and car with a family abroad, and stay in what is usually a prestigious home for anything up to three months.

When we retired, we planned to visit relatives in the Antipodes. We had both worked hard throughout our careers and had no inhibitions about spending some of our savings on a five-month trip around the world. After this memorable tour we were bitten by the travel bug but realised that we could not

afford another extravaganza. Then we discovered the wonderful world of house exchange.

The slogan on the cover of the Intervac home-exchange directory which fell onto our doormat read: "The book which could change your life."

It was not an unreasonable claim because, within a couple of weeks of our directory entry appearing, a trickle of inquiries from would-be exchangers developed into a steady stream. One of them was an inquiry from Vancouver Island and we quickly arranged a "two-centre" exchange. We were met in Denver, Colorado, by the exchange family and driven to their house in Keystone Ranch. After a six-week stay we flew on to Seattle, took the ferry through the Orcas Islands off British Columbia and stayed in Victoria for another four weeks. It all went like a dream.

Encouraged by this success, we accepted invitations to trade with families in Torbay (a week over Easter with our grandson) and Suffolk, followed by a two-month autumn exchange in a small southern Colorado community. We had fallen in love with this State on our first exchange and were not disappointed with the hospitality of this little cowboy town.

From the verandah of our ranch-style home we watched the deer and wild turkeys graze on the scrub and the aspens change from orange to gold and silver on the distant mountain range. Friends of the family in whose house we were staying took us to a rodeo, and we were invited out for countless meals. We were even taken on a flight in a light aircraft.

Our next adventure was a two-month exchange with two retired dentists and their wives. One couple owned a lovely home overlooking the shores of Kauai, the other owned a condominium in Winter Park, a premier ski resort in Colorado. We spent a magical six weeks on the island watching the whales as we ate fresh papayas for breakfast, snorkelling off the sandy cove nearby and getting

to know the locals, who were the most friendly and generous people imaginable. We returned via the mainland, where we stopped off at Denver and skied in the Rockies. All this for the cost of the airfare and the usual living expenses (food and fuel is cheaper in America).

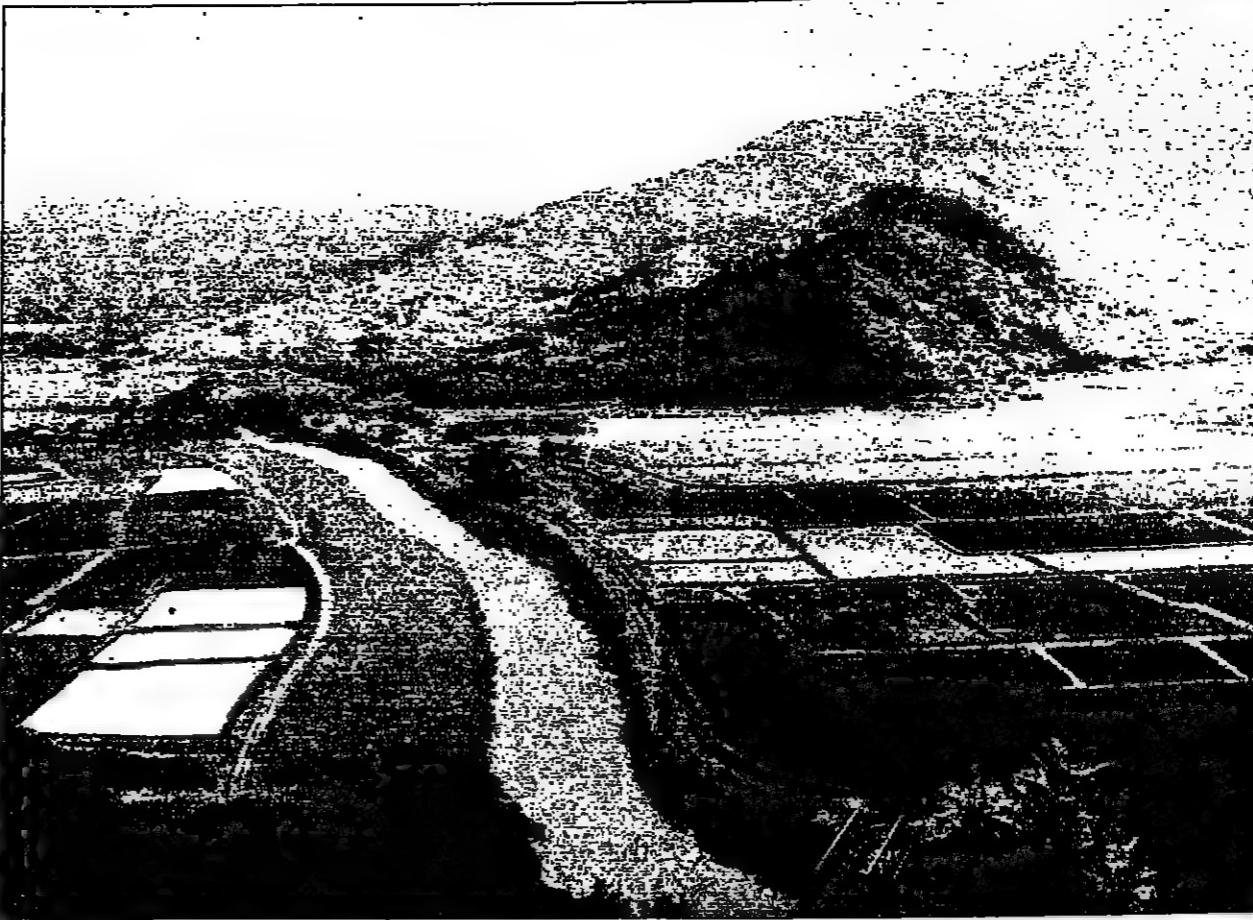
After two short summer exchanges in France and Amsterdam, we spent two months in an upmarket beach resort north of San Diego, California. We exchanged with a couple who live in Beverly Hills and enjoyed their holiday home in exclusive Del Mar.

During this time we visited our exchange friends in Colorado, stopping off to discuss a winter exchange with a retired professor and his wife who lived on the edge of the Arizona desert.

On our return journey, we spent the night in the Beverly Hills mansion of our current exchangers, parking the four-wheel-drive Chevrolet which we had at our disposal behind the Rolls-Royce Corniche. The maid cooked us breakfast before we were driven to the airport for our homeward flight.

By this time the lady of the house had returned from her stay in our cottage and we asked her how she had adjusted to life without a pool, hot tub or maid. It obviously wasn't a problem because she told us she thought our house was "so cute" and phoned us the following week to ask if we would exchange with one of her neighbours. As Pat Boone lived across the drive and John Bloom (of the washing-machine dynasty) lived next door, we reserved judgment on that.

"Aren't you taking risks allowing strangers into your home?" is the most common question. We have had a few minor breakages, and one exchanger dented the front of our car, but we took out insurance cover for such problems when we joined the scheme. The agency accepts no



Exchanges allow you to visit places you would otherwise not be able to afford, such as the island of Kauai, Hawaii

### Home swaps: fact file

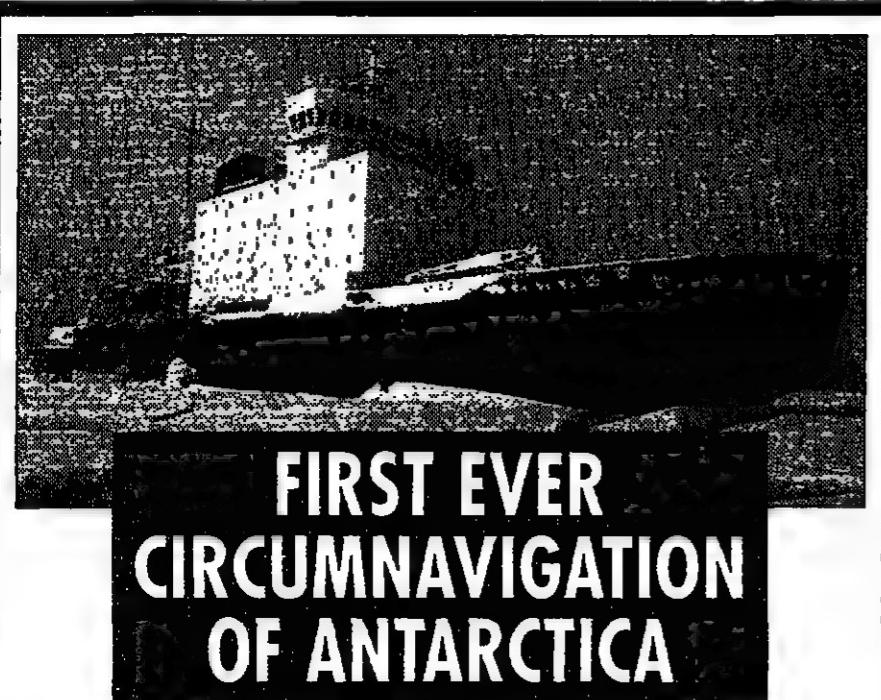
□ The Hewinsons book flights through Trailfinders (0171-928-3366, fax 937-9294), for long-haul journeys, or 0171-957-5400 for transatlantic flights and Europe.

□ Intervac is at 3 Orchard Court, North Wrasse, Wiltshire SN14 7AD (01255-992208). Membership £65 a year.

□ A seven-week stay in Del Mar last autumn cost the Hewinsons a total of £1,344, including Intervac membership, two return flights to Los Angeles at £402 each, allowing £105 for visits to Sea World safari park, museum, Del Mar Zoo and wine tours, and £90 for a seven-day tour of Arizona, staying with Intervac friends and including two nights in a motel, meals and petrol.

they are seeking, preferred locations, dates and time spans. The cost of joining is modest compared with the advantages. Rates vary according to the size of the scheme. Intervac charges £65 per entry and covers 43 countries. The company publishes three directories annually, the main one in December. Before agreeing an exchange it is wise to ensure that both parties agree terms, such as payment of telephone bills, and understand what is expected of them, such as feeding the cat or mowing the lawn. It is also helpful to prepare a file with details of transport, places of interest to visit and how to contact emergency services.

We have certainly changed our lifestyle over the past few years and have travelled beyond our wildest dreams. The children's inheritance will be a little smaller but we wouldn't have missed our adventures for anything.



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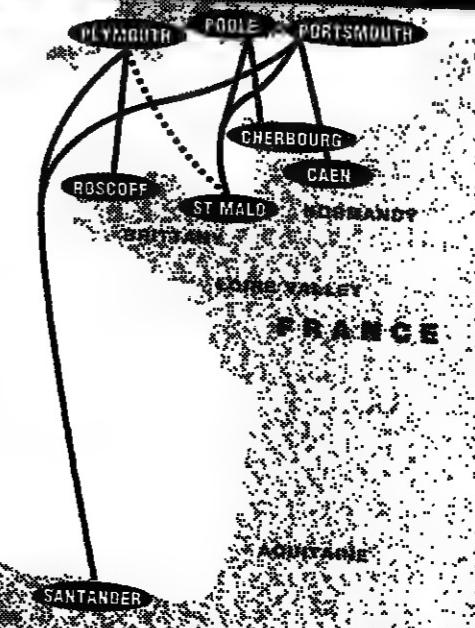
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## TRAVEL

17

BARBADOS: Shakespeare and opera in the annual Holders Season, a highlight for visitors and locals

# Hot nights of high drama

**J**ump up, jump up, jump up, jump up! the beat insists, subtle as a steamhammer, and it is useless to resist. Be you ever such a two-left-feeler at home, you find yourself getting up under that Caribbean sky and shaking your booty.

After a few nights, though, you long for a little diversity, music more challenging than Bob Marley's *Exodus*, Richard Strauss's *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, perhaps, some Shakespeare or even grand opera. The sort of entertainment you'd expect to find in London or New York. Of course, it's a daft idea but that, magically, is just what you will find in Barbados every year round about Easter, when the Holders Season is under way.

For no sensible reason, John and Wendy Kidd (parents of superfan Jody) got together with a friend, Richard Hazlon, and dreamed up a cultural festival: the dream became reality and what started life four years ago as a few evenings of opera extracts is now a three-week season of opera, Shakespeare, drama, recitals and cabaret, with an ambitious sporting programme as well.

Most events take place at the Kidds' family home, Holders, an old plantation house. Last year, while Britain shivered, Nichola McAuliffe, Christopher Biggins and Kit and the Widow went through the living hell of rehearsing *The Taming of the Shrew* in the sun-baked garden, with only a swimming pool at hand.

Informality is the keynote of the Holders Season. On the first night of *Madam Butterfly*, where the Wren Orchestra competed with whistling tree frogs (pitched somewhere between B and D) in the natural amphitheatre of the Holders garden, the audience sat on plastic chairs ranged on the grass in the shade of towering mahogany and flamboyant trees. And while some designer frocks and serious rocks

Garden rehearsals for *The Taming of the Shrew*

were on show, there were plenty of shorts and sandals, and the High Commissioner was wearing a green spotted shirt borrowed from his son.

From the start, everyone was determined to keep this a festival for Barbados, and although visitors outnumbered everyone else at the cabaret acts held in various ritzy hotels in the west-coast parishes of St James's and St Peter's, the majority of the audiences are Bajan. Since Bajan English has retained some of the cadences, lift and colour of Elizabethan, Shakespeare's language presents little obstacle and I sat near some children who were open-mouthed with pleasure at Kate's antics as Petruchio tames her spirit by starvation.

It's thespis by night but during the day sport comes to the fore. Last year's celebrity golf tournament saw Geoffrey Boycott and Nigel Mansell competing on the Royal Westmoreland's world-class course and, if you didn't fancy the polo, you could have climbed up to the diminutive Holders



Long lazy days on the beach can be followed by evenings of festival entertainment of the sort you'd find in London

Night all those years ago. Lesley Joseph, from *Birds of a Feather*, had rented a beach house, and Nicholas Parsons arrived to get married, a quiet affair with a few close acquaintances and the photographers from, yes, *Hello!*

Despite the glam names, there is an undiscovered, low-key charm about the Holders Season at present but if, as rumour has it, Signor Pavarotti puts in an appearance in 1997, it will never be the same again. Better put your towel on the beach now, before the crowds arrive.

MARY LEA

## Getting there

The fourth Holders Season runs from March 9-30 1996. Make arrangements through your hotel or contact Holders (00 1 809 432 6385, Fax 00 1 809 432 461). Tickets from £8-£50.

The author was a guest of the Barbados Tourism Authority, 263 Tottenham Court Road, London, WI (0171-636 9487/9, Fax 0171-637 1496), and BA.

Flights from Britain are operated by British West Indian Airways and BA from £713 return. There are weekly flights on Concorde (£4,620 return) on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and 31.

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**N**ichola McAuliffe returns to star in *Twelfth Night*, Christopher Biggins will direct *Tosca* and *The Mikado*, and the finale will be a tribute to George Gershwin. Relaxed it may be, but it's also very *Hello!*-ish. At last year's opening gala I spotted Claudette Colbert, 90-odd and still recognisably the sassy heiress who had Clark Gable smitten in *It Happened One*

Night all those years ago. Lesley Joseph, from *Birds of a Feather*, had rented a beach house, and Nicholas Parsons arrived to get married, a quiet affair with a few close acquaintances and the photographers from, yes, *Hello!*

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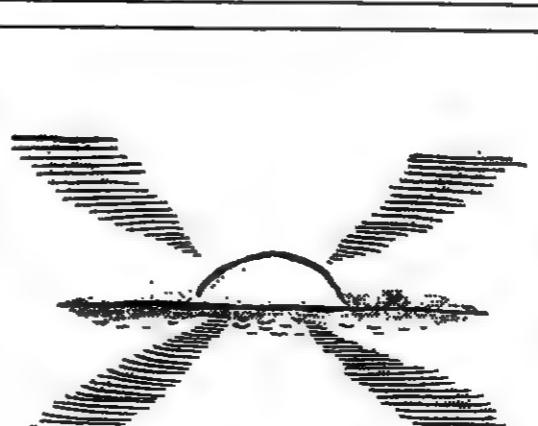
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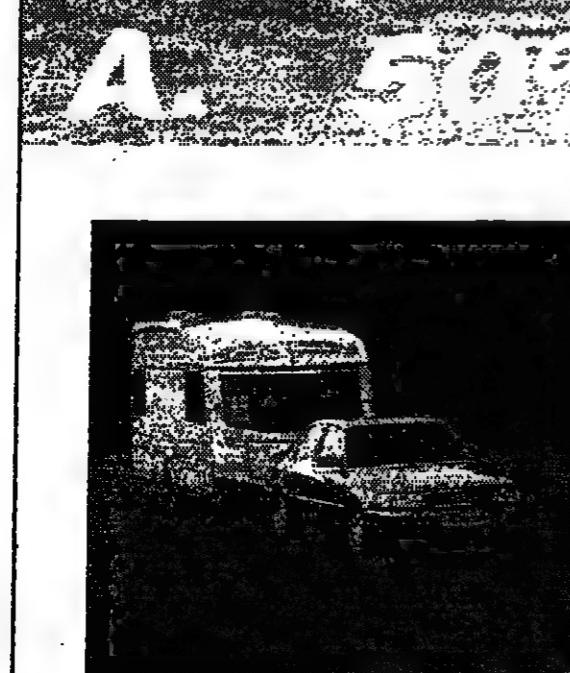
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## TRAVEL

EGYPT: The newly opened tomb of Queen Nefertari near Luxor is claimed to be the most beautiful of all



Part of one of the many exquisite murals in Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens

## Secrets of a favoured wife

A "new" tomb sounds like a contradiction in terms when it is in the Valley of the Queens, but that is the simplest way to describe Egypt's latest tourist attraction, and provides an excellent reason for a return trip, or an added incentive for a first one.

More than 90 years after its discovery, Queen Nefertari's tomb has been opened to the public for the first time. New is the wrong word for what was intended to be the last resting place of Rameses II's favourite wife, cut into a hillside about 3,200 years ago, but the astonishing thing is that the colours of the murals are as bright and rich as if they had just been painted.

You cannot just wander in on a whim, or expect to be

herded through as part of a package tour, but if you make the effort to be one of only 150 visitors allowed in each day, you will be rewarded with an unforgettable sight.

The tomb was discovered in 1904 by the Italian Ernesto Schiaparelli and is one of 80 found in the Valley of the Queens. Most are uninscribed. Nefertari's, one of only four open to visitors at the moment, is revealed to be overwhelmingly beautiful and gorgeously decorated — the best in Egypt some people say.

When it was found, the painted stucco relief was badly damaged by salt and water, the queen's mummy was destroyed and her treasures long plundered. Now, after meticulous restoration work, largely provided by the Getty Conserva-

tion Institute of California, the salt encrustations have been removed and the slipping stucco invisibly refixed with slivers of bark from the Japanese mulberry tree.

A first staircase leads down to the hall and the start of the treasure trove of wall paintings. The vision that greeted our party was almost too much to take in and, at first, disconcertingly perfect. Apart from one blank wall to the left as you enter the hall, where the most badly damaged reliefs had fallen to bits, every inch of the 520 square yards apart from the new wood floor, is decorated.

Through the corridors and pillared halls, a life-size Nefertari is shown in numerous scenes, before different gods of the underworld be-

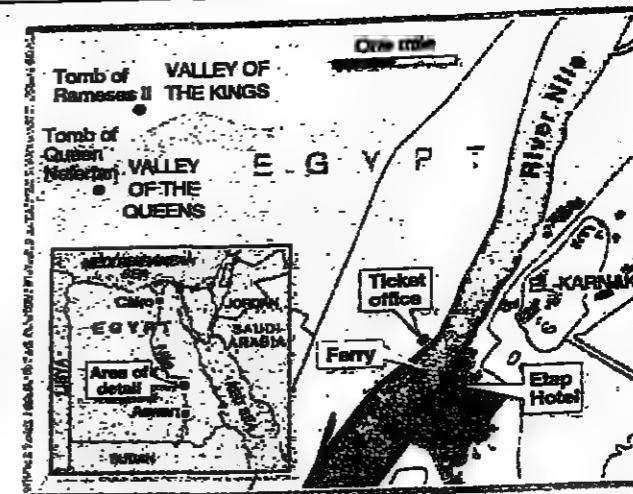
neath a ceiling of deep-blue sky scattered with gold stars.

Although her tomb has only just been officially opened, Nefertari has always been famous: she is the same consort of Rameses II (who lived to the age of 93, reigned 67 years, from 1304 BC to 1236 BC, and fathered 200 children) to whom he paid the honour of building a temple beside his own at Abu Simbel.

Nefertari, who was reputed to be a great beauty (her name means "beautiful lady"), is shown on her tomb walls to be tall and slim, elegant in a long white dress with a simple sash, as with perfect posture she makes her offerings to the gods or plays a game of draughts. The craftsmanship is particularly fine, and unusual in that shading was used to give her face form.

We had, by chance, picked a quiet time for our visit, at 11am on a Saturday morning. Our tour was unheralded, and there were only a handful of other similarly awestruck visitors in welcome contrast to the noisy, jostling groups in the other tombs. I was touched at the genuine pride of the attendants, who, far from being blasé after a lifetime of tomb-sitting, eagerly pointed out hidden features.

Contrary to reports just before the tomb opened last November, visitors were not made to wear face masks to preserve the walls from the moisture of their breath, or to shuffle about in shoe covers. We were allowed to walk through the 30-yard long tomb without so much as a buffer of glass panels or guard rails. Its guardians are satisfied that the relatively small numbers passing through are no danger to the reliefs.



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Although the high entrance price — £100 (about £20), which is ten to 20 times higher than for other tombs — has reduced the number of visitors,

run you up to the ticket kiosk and on to the Valley of the Queens, wait however long you need, and then return you to the ferry. Before getting into the taxi, however, negotiate the hire charge, not per person, of £20 (about £4), bearing in mind that the driver will expect to receive £25 including *baksheesh*.

Tickets for the other tombs, and temples on the west bank can be bought from the kiosk next to the ferry before you engage the taxi.

Queen Nefertari's tomb is this year's hot ticket, the one everyone will ask you about when you get home. There's no doubt that its exclusivity adds to its touristic kudos.

And, perhaps, part of the excitement and satisfaction comes from winning the obstacle race to get in. Whatever the reason, it is truly a gem.

CAROLINE HENDRIE

• The author was a guest of Somak Holidays (0181-23 3000), which offers a seven-night Nile cruise aboard the Osiris from £399, including flights from Gatwick, transfers and full board.

The same cruise followed by seven nights B&B at the Hilton Luxor costs from £544.

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## TRAVEL 19

EUROPE: For £275, the Inter-Rail opens the borders to 26 countries for a month

## Jump aboard the freedom train

I was raining in Berlin, so we went to Bergen. There aren't many holidays where you can afford to change your plans so easily on a whim — or because of the weather. But this one...

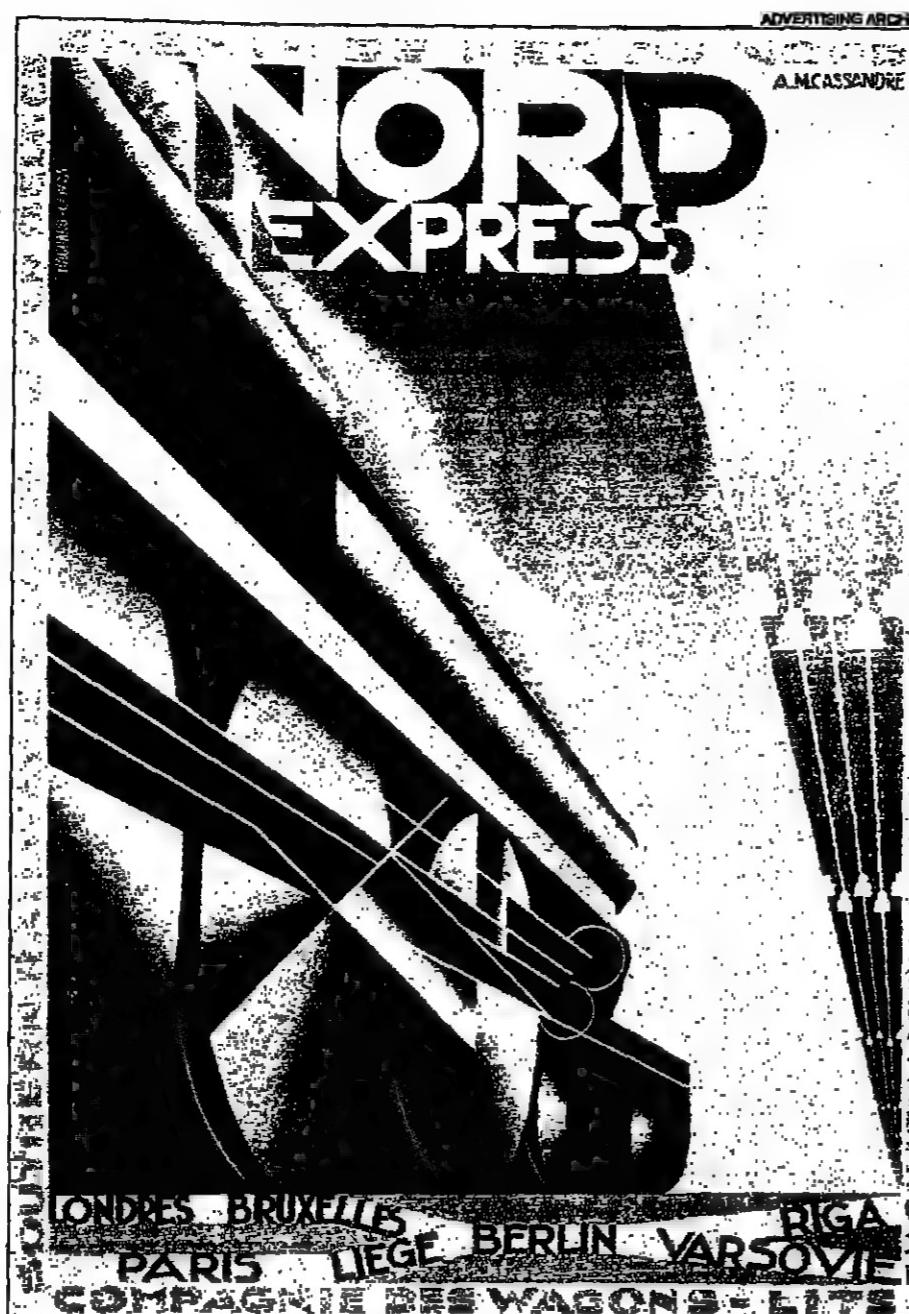
We were Inter-Railing and, £275 a head, we had the choice of Europe — the choice to explore more than a dozen countries and to experience a kaleidoscope of cultures for a month. And at a kaleidoscope,

kaleidoscopes need have no fear; there is no danger of a bad Europe. Anyone who is threatened by such a concept should take an Interrail trip to experience the differences for themselves.

Even the railway stations are different: only in Paris is there the ornate, studded ceiling and turn-of-the-century luxury of the station restaurant at the Gare de l'Est; and only in the former Berlin Hauptbahnhof is there a queue, patrolled by guards, to enter a supermarket which has pick-and-mix as its main draw.

The ever-changing nationalities, trains, tastes and fashions of Europeans can be experienced from a railway ridge.

No Norway passengers are served ice-cream on the journeys from Oslo to Bergen and train travels over spectacular mountain passes where snow lies even in the summer. Switzerland the immaculate carriages and the manicured countryside make you feel like a passenger on a toy train network; in Hungary the coaches to main stations are littered with the carcasses of rusting steam locomotives. The Interrail scheme is a well-established idea. An all-inclusive "global" ticket costing £5 and valid for one month, gives the holder unrestricted second-class rail travel throughout the 26 participating European countries. Last year, for the first time, Europe was divided into five zones; a set for 15 days of travel in a zone costs £185, or £220 for month in two zones. In addition, tickets are now available to those over 26, although the prices are higher and the ticket is valid only for Northern and Eastern Europe (15 days, £215; one month, £275). It was some time before we realised that the retired history teacher from the West Coast of Ireland, whom we had met late at night on



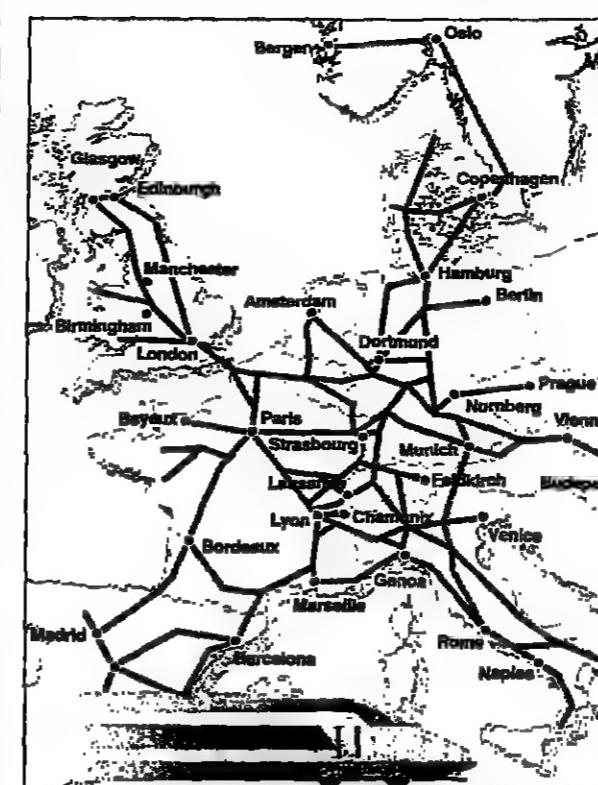
Making tracks — but don't forget the Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable

able to those over 26, although the prices are higher and the ticket is valid only for Northern and Eastern Europe (15 days, £215; one month, £275). It was some time before we realised that the retired history teacher from the West Coast of Ireland, whom we had met late at night on

Copenhagen station, was on the same holiday as ourselves. There are a few drawbacks to the Interrail ticket. Within the United Kingdom you get only 30 per cent of rail journeys and a 50 per cent reduction on most ferry routes to the Continent. Indeed, most guides to travelling with an

Interrail ticket suggest that it is cheaper to travel by ferry or by coach rather than train.

In addition to this, throughout Europe various extra reservations and supplements are payable on inter-city services. The wise traveller soon learns to check these out and to pay



## Interrail pass and zones

Information and booking: the International Rail Centre at Victoria station, London, or phone 0171-834 2345. Credit card bookings can be made on 0171-828 0892.

Prices: One zone for 15 days, £185; Two zones for one month, £220; Any three zones for one month, £245; All zones for one month, £275. For ES, the centre will help to plan an itinerary.

## Zones:

- A: Republic of Ireland.
- B: Norway, Sweden, Finland.
- C: Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark.
- D: Czech and Slovak republics, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia.
- E: France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg.
- F: Spain, Portugal, Morocco.
- G: Italy, Greece, Turkey, Slovakia. Includes AND/HML ferry services between Brindisi (Italy) and Patras (Greece).

any extra at the railway station before departure — it is less hassle and cheaper.

The key to making the most of the Interrail ticket is using the enormous flexibility it allows. We had planned to visit Budapest for a couple of nights only, but discovered that on Day 10 a day you can live like a king, so we spent a few afternoons in pampered luxury at the thermal sulphur baths of the Hotel Gellert, and stayed for the national celebrations of St Stephen's day.

Your interests can shape the holiday; of all the people we met, Interrailers, not one had the same route or set of places to visit as ourselves. We went to Bayeux to see the tapestry; to Chamonix for some mountain walking; to Lausanne to visit the museum of the Olympic movement; and to Feldkirch because we had changed some money into Austrian shillings before we left England. Then we visited Budapest and Prague, before going to Germany to spend the weekend with some friends who work near Nuremberg.

After this, we went to Berlin, where we were just in time to see the remains of Checkpoint Charlie, surrounded by crushed fragments of the Berlin Wall, before the area is redeveloped. We finished our month by visiting Scandinavia, which, contrary to its reputation of being expensive, proved to be one of the cheapest countries on our itinerary. This is mainly due to the fact that Norwegian law permits wild camping on any site that is more than 150 metres away from a building. The Interrail centres at Copenhagen and Oslo stations (funded by the state-owned rail companies which want to encourage tourism) are worth visiting; at the very least they provide an opportunity for a cheap and much-needed shower.

There is only one item that is indispensable on an Interrail tour: the Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable. Read it carefully, and pay special attention to the footnotes; a quick glance which ignored these led us to spend a night outside Oslo station with gentle drizzle for company.

To travel Europe by train is an incomparable experience; it allows you to visit old friends and to make new ones; to see places most only read of in newspapers or history books. It definitely shows that whatever the politicians of the present or future decide, people in Europe may live with each other in friendship, but the differences between them will survive.

The hungry Interrail traveller can taste those differences at every cafe and railway station visited — even when the meals are the least expensive.

There is a world of difference between the bread and cheese of France, washed down with a glass of wine, and the bread and fish of Norway, fresh from the market on the docksides at Bergen.

But the appetite that is really whetted is the appetite for travel. At the very least, a month spent travelling Europe by Interrail provides you with enough trailers for future holidays to last you the rest of your life.

MATTHEW BRYANT

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

## TEICHOPSIS

(c) A term coined by Dr Hubert Airy, son of the Astronomer Royal, and first published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, 1787. It describes the aura (warning) of a migraine attack — the flashing zigzag lines the hallucination slowly enlarging, often with a scotoma (aura of blindness) in the centre, all of 5 to 60 (average 30) minute duration.

## EMPERORS CHAMBERMAID

(c) The 14th King's Hussars, now the 14th/20th King's Hussars, a famous English cavalry regiment trained in the hunting field. At the Battle of Vitoria, 1813, they captured Joseph Bonaparte's carriage and retained his silver chamber-pot as a souvenir.

## COCKPIT OF EUROPE

(a) By the accidents of history, geography and folly, the muddy place now called Belgium has seen more squawking and fighting than anywhere else in the world. Forget the Romans, it has been the stage for the battles of Ramillies (1706), Fontenoy (1745), Jemappes (1792), Ligny, Quatre Bras and Waterloo (1815), Mons, Ypres and much other barbed wire, bombs and blood (1914-18).

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## Damascus to Palmyra

Syria has never been an easy place to visit, and often in the past involving multiple border crossings from neighbouring countries causing delay and a reduction in the amount of actual exploration time. Since the ideal time to visit is between September and May and that the best starting point is Damascus, we shall be operating a short flight service from London Gatwick direct to Damascus during this period. Needless to say, this also considerably reduces the cost.

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit Syria, one of the world's most fascinating countries. We reach Damascus in the evening and spend the first night in the old living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Ottomans. Early morning walk through the narrow streets of the old city is wonderful. For many the highlight will be the Church of Ananias at the end of a Street Called Straight. Here, the stories of the Bible come magically to life, irrespective of your religious beliefs. We will see the chapel commemorating the lowering down of St Paul from a window.

Damascus is a very special place - the city has colonnaded streets and monumental arches but is perhaps most well known for the Temple of Baal.

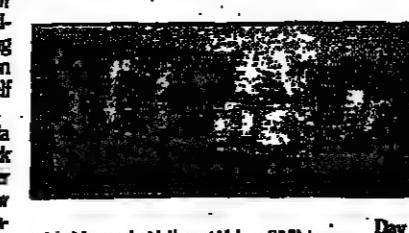
Aleppo is the largest medieval citadel in the world and a fine example of Arab military architecture. There are some formidable fortifications to explore, each lively street specialising in its own trade. Another fascination of this city is the beautifully preserved inhabited historical homes many with attractive courtyards that can take one back in time with their gracious style and untouched quality. From Aleppo we will be visiting the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo who positioned himself atop a 16-metre pillar for 40 years.

A visit will also be made to Ebla where 16,000 clay tablets dating back to 2500 BC were discovered. Crusader history holds a special fascination for many and we will visit the Crusader Knights Hospitaller, the residence of the Crusader Knights Hospitaller, will not disappoint.

Finally, Bosra contains the most unique Roman theatre anywhere. The Ayudian (Saladin's Dynasty) incorporated it into a 12th-century castle. The city is also Roman in style.



visiting Damascus, Maaloula, Palmyra, Aleppo, Ebla, Ugarit, Horns, Crac des Chevaliers and Bosra - 7 nights from £595.00



with Monarch Airlines (Airbus 310) to Damascus. On arrival transfer to the Al-Paradis Hotel for one night stay.

Day 2 Tour of Damascus including Omayad Mosque, the National Museum, Saladin's tomb and the old city. Drive to nearby Maaloula for an overnight stay.

Day 3 Morning excursion from Aleppo to the 5th-century church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

## Departure Dates &amp; Prices

Wednesday - per person in a twin

1996

Feb 14, 21, 28 £630.00

Mar 6, 13 £630.00

Mar 20, 27 £630.00

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Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 £630.00

Nov 4, 11, 18, 25 £630.00

Dec 2, 9, 16 £630.00

Dec 23, 30 £630.00

Supplement per person

Single £165.00

Flights included air travel, transfers and road transport, accommodation on board, sightseeing, local representatives/guides, local taxes, travel insurance, airport taxes, service charges, port taxes, entrance fees. All prices are subject to change.

Important Note: The sequential order of the tour may sometimes be changed in order to avoid congestion at the sites.

Day 4 In the morning walk through the city then drive to Aleppo for a two-night stay at the Pullman Hotel. On the way visit Ebla, where 16,000 clay tablets were discovered.

Day 5 Morning excursion from Aleppo to the 5th-century church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 6 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 7 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 8 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 9 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 10 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 11 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 12 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

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Day 31 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 32 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 33 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

Day 34 Morning visit to the 10th century Church of St Simeon the Stylo. Return to Aleppo and

UNIVERSITY CITIES: With UCAS offers in the post, Jessica Gorst-Williams presents a two-part guide

MATTHEW COOK

## A course of discovery for every fresher

FEW places leave such abiding memories as where you went to university. Yet as UCAS offers tumble through letterboxes, the other, broader meaning of a "university place" tends to be overlooked.

To help this year's hopefuls put faces to the place-names on their degree course applications, here is a whistle-stop tour around six cities with major universities — Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Southampton and York are featured next week — that are mostly off the usual tourist track. London and Edinburgh are left out, as they are likely to be familiar enough already; Oxford and Cambridge because this year's admissions due is now east.

Many university cities are sites of vigorous urban and cultural renewal, and each has a distinctive life force. Finding out how this blends in with personal chemistry can only be achieved by going there. Parents should preferably come too, as they will need to be in the know during last-minute nerves.

Hotel recommendations here are based on word-of-mouth suggestions. It is always wise to ask for a brochure and confirm prices. Attractions were chosen with all the family in mind and opening times are for winter, which usually means until March 31. Any concessions for *Times* readers will also apply until then.

**BIRMINGHAM**

**FLYOVERS** including the infamous Spaghetti Junction, a network of fast roads and a canal system more extensive than that of Venice make Britain's second-largest city seem bent on getting people in and out as fast as possible. But although Birmingham does have seedy, boardered-up ghettos, there are also leafy suburbs, pavement cafés and open spaces. Museums abound, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is based here and the Symphony Hall is home to Sir Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

**Short breaks**

□ New Hall Country House, Walmley Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QX (0121-378 2442). About seven miles from Birmingham University. Two nights dinner, B&B from £166 per person sharing.

□ Swallow Hotel, 12 Hagley Road, Five Ways, Birmingham B3 8SJ (0121-452 1144). One mile from university. Two nights at weekend, dinner, B&B £160 per person. Under-sixes pay for meals only. Seven to 14-year-olds £23 each for B&B only.

**Attractions**

□ Cadbury World, Linden Road, Bourneville, Birmingham (0121-451 4159). 10am-5.30pm. Check for availability of tickets. Closed Mondays. Tuesdays and Fridays but open for weeks beginning Feb 12 and 19 from 9.30am.

□ The Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre, 77-79 Vyse Street, Birmingham (0121-554 3598). Mon-Fri 10am-4pm. Sat 11am-5pm. Closed Suns.

**BRISTOL**

THE CITY nestles between the Quenches and the Mendips, and some areas have a

village atmosphere. It still has grey stone Georgian houses, Brunel's spectacular Clifton suspension bridge and the brass pillars called the Nails outside the Exchange, which were used for checking cash payments (hence "cash on the nail"). Bristol's theme is maritime. As early as the 12th century, coal and wool were exported from here to France and Spain, while wine and sherry were imported in return. London theatre productions often make their debut at the Bristol Old Vic.

**Short breaks**

□ Thornbury Castle, Thornbury, near Bristol, BS12 1HH (01454 28182). 15 miles from university. Special rate until end of February: double rooms £120 per night with continental breakfast, singles £75. No children under 12.

□ Bristol Marriott, Lower Castle Street, Old Market, Bristol (0117 9294281). Special

weekend rate for *Times* readers for two nights' dinner, B&B single room £128 (a saving of £15.80 on B&B rate alone — mention this article when booking). Double £158. Children under 18 free when sharing with parents, their food and drinks will be charged as taken.

**Attractions**

□ Harveys Wine Museum, 12 Denmark Street, Bristol BS1 5DQ (0117 9275036). Open, if no private events taking place. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm.

□ SS Great Britain, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, on display in dry dock, Great Western Dock, Gas Ferry Road, Bristol BS1 6TY (0117 260680). Daily 10am-4.30pm (5.30pm during BST).

**CORNWALL**

ONCE a beautiful ancient city, centre of the English cloth industry, Coventry — the

home of Warwick University — has as its symbol the elephant, a sign of Christ's redemption of the human race and also of strength. But resilient though its people are, the local porous red sandstone is not, which is one reason why bomb damage during the Second World War was so extensive. Now even parts of Sir Basil Spence's great post-war cathedral are beginning to decay. Ignore local comment and go in. Not far away, on the university campus, is the Warwick Arts Centre, Britain's largest arts complex outside London.

**Short breaks**

□ Brandon Hall Hotel, Brandon, Coventry CV8 3FW (01203 542571). Six miles from university. Weekend leisure breaks: dinner, B&B £110 per person. Children under five sharing parents' room free. Under-16s just pay for meals, or 75 per cent of the full rate for their own room.

□ Brooklands Grange Hotel, Hollyhead Road, Coventry CV5 8HX (01203 601601). Two miles from the university. Two-night weekend break B&B for two adults sharing double room £120. Children under 13 sharing parents' room £15 per night.

**Attractions**

□ Museum of British Road Transport, St Agnes Lane, Hales Street, Coventry CV1 1PN (01203 833425). Open daily 10.30pm.

□ Warwick Castle, Warwick CV4 4QU (01926 403000). Open every day 10.30pm.

**DURHAM**

"HALF church of God, half castle 'gains the Scot'" wrote Sir Walter Scott of Durham's Norman Romanesque cathedral, built around St Cuthbert's grave. The city is also known for its recalcitrant bishops — until 1836 prince bishops held sway, minting their own money and raising armies. Not all of Durham has escaped modern incursions, though. Locals lament the "hideous shop fronts" of some high street retailers. The area around the cathedral and

castle, high on a wooded peninsula overlooking the river Wear, is a designated World Heritage Site.

**Short breaks**

□ Redworth Hall Hotel and Country Club, Redworth, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 6NL (01388 772442), 16 miles from university. Subject to availability, weekend two-night breaks: dinner, B&B £149 per person sharing double room. Supplement for singles. Children under five sharing with adults, free B&B. Up to age 12, £10 B&B. Other food paid for as taken. Special 20 per cent discount on room rates in February.

□ The Royal County Hotel, Old Elvet, Durham City DH1 3JN (0191-388 6822). Close to university. Two-night breaks: dinner, B&B and one lunch from £105 per person. B&B free for under 14s sharing with parents, with extra meals charged as taken.

**Attractions**

□ Durham Castle, Palace Green DH1 3RW. Open Mon, Wed and Sat 2.40-3pm unless there are functions (0191-374 3800).

□ Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill DH1 3TH (0191-374 7911). Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-1pm and 2.5pm, Sat and Sun 2.5pm.

**EXETER**

SET in a shallow bowl surrounded by undulating countryside, this market town was

targeted by German bombers during the Second World War. Even so, there are still some cobbled streets and timbered terraces, and a magnificent 11th to 14th-century cathedral, with an astronomical clock and outstanding pre-medieval manuscripts. Underground passages devised to bring spring water to the heart of the city. Now dry, they are open to visitors.

**Short breaks**

□ The Lord Haldon Hotel, Duncombe Park EX6 7YF (01392 832483). Four-and-a-half miles from university. Special rate for *Times* readers for two nights £70 (usually £149 B&B — mention this article when booking). Children under eight free, 8-14 half price.

□ Royal Clarence Hotel, Caerlaverock Yard, EX1 3DH (01392 319955). University one mile. Weekend rates for two nights' dinner, B&B per person £104 (free bottle of wine per booking on production of this article). Under-16s sharing with parents pay only for food (breakfast £4, dinner £10).

**Attractions**

□ Underground Passages, off High Street (near Boots) EX4 3PZ (01392 265887/265888). Open Sat 10am-5.30pm (closed at lunchtime), Tues-Fri 2.40-3pm.

□ Exeter Maritime Museum, Haven Road, Exeter EX2 8DP (01392 58075). Open 10am-4pm daily.

**CLINGING** to the Yorkshire Dales, Leeds has street cafés and covered arcades which, along with its thriving theatres, Opera North and major music events, give it something of a continental feel. A huge redevelopment programme is under way, including a £42.5 million project to rehouse most of the Royal Armouries collection. The museum opens on March 30.

**Short breaks**

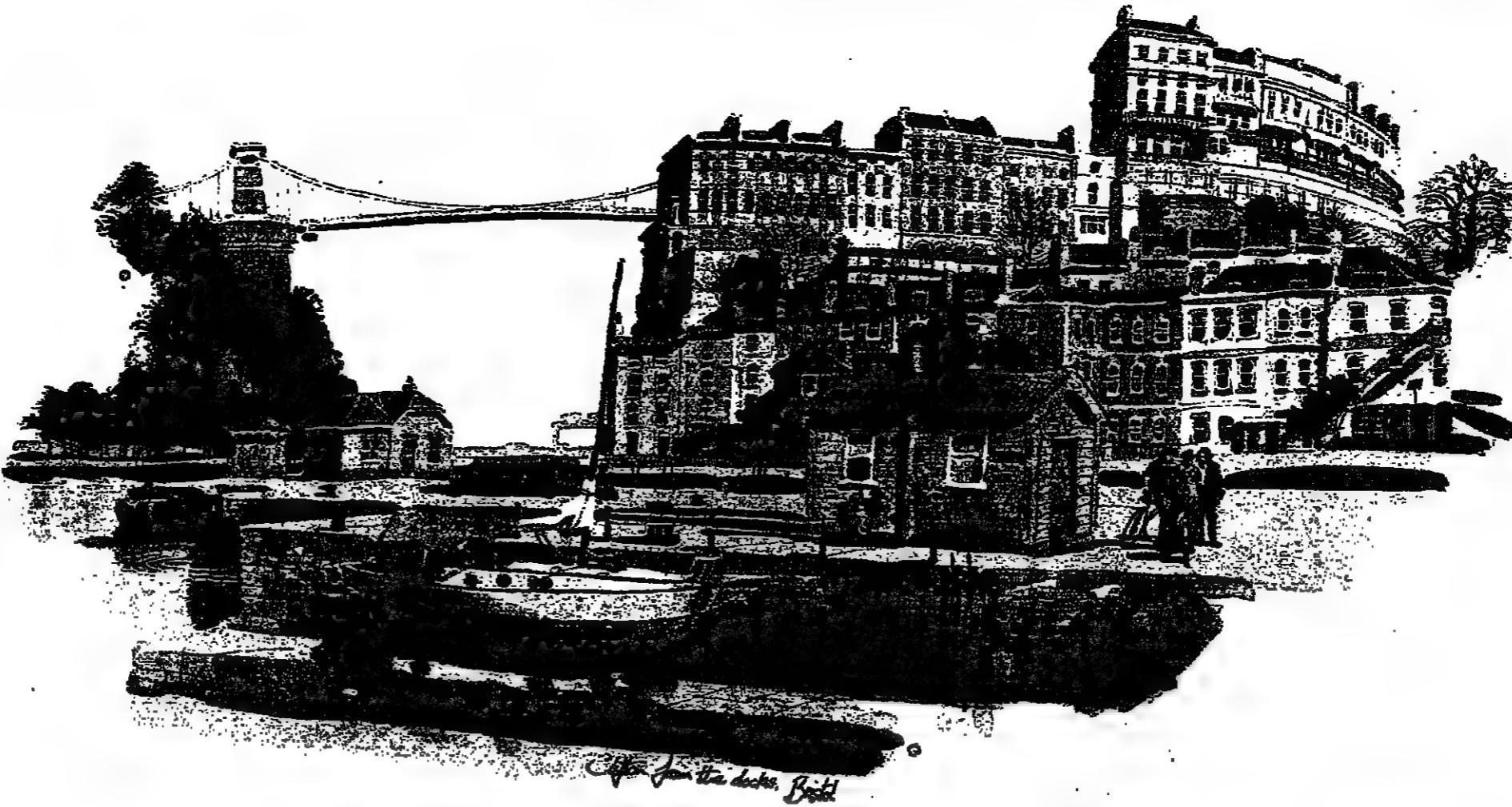
□ The Calls, Leeds LS2 7EW (0113 2440099). Two miles from university area. Two-night breaks available only over weekends. B&B sharing, £77.50 per person.

□ Wood Hall Hotel, Trip Lane, nr Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4JA (01937 587271). Nine miles from university. Two nights, from £135 per person in double room, dinner, B&B free. Children under seven in parents' room, B&B free. Age seven to 14, £15. Food charged as taken.

**Attractions**

□ Tadley's Brewery Wharf (the English pub through the ages). The Waterfront, Leeds LS1 1OG (0113 2420666). Open Sat and Sun until Feb 5, then Thur-Sun 10.30am-5pm (last admission 3.30pm).

□ Tropical World (all kinds of flora and fauna). Roundhay Park, Leeds (0113 2661850). Open 10am to 4pm daily.



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## TRAVEL

**SKIING:** Why it makes sense to hire an approved mountain guide; plus last-minute bargain breaks

## Follow the leader to the best of the snow

The high-season crowds on piste make off-piste powder even more inviting. But after forking out for a lift pass and holiday package many British skiers consider guides to be an unnecessary expense.

Wrong. This is one of the most dangerous seasons for snow security in years. And even early-intermediate skiers are now demanding access to erstwhile black runs, many now reclassified as "itineraries" or "off piste" by resorts unwilling to accept patrol responsibilities. The mountain guide has replaced the ski teacher as an essential holiday "extra". A day's off-piste skiing with a guide should cost around £100-£150 for a group of three to four people.

Tour operators have been quick to spot the trend. Specialised weeks dedicated to teaching beginners how to ski in deep snow now lead on to trans-alpine ski safaris. The future is wide body skis, inevitably dubbed "fat boys".

I have seen Verbier and Val d'Isère tracked out in hours by skiers on fat boys who wouldn't go near a couloir on

their more difficult to negotiate normal skis. With 150 skiers killed in avalanches every winter, certified mountain guides make sense.

Skiing with a guide adds immeasurable value to a holiday. In Andermatt, Alex Clapasson took me down narrow chutes suffused with snow at a time when most of the mountain was sheet ice and crust. Over in Val d'Isère Patrick Zimmer led us past cement-thick snow around the Espace Killy to sheltered areas of loose powder.

Skiing the best snow on the mountain is enhanced by knowing just how indifferent the snow is in other sectors. Skiing powder down a "hidden" valley while your friends are standing in a lift queue on the slope is the ultimate convincer.

There are few personal relationships more important than guide and client. Swiss guides, in Zermatt in particular, have a reputation for being haughty. I would ski any time with Jean-Marie Ollant (00 33 50 63 00 88) or the Compagnie des Guides in Chamonix; Ueli Frei (00 41 36 53 13 52) in Grindelwald;



Ueli Frei, a guide in Grindelwald, takes a break after a gruelling morning run with the author

Alex Clapasson (00 41 44 67 770) in Andermatt; Patrick Zimmer (00 33 79 06 14 80) in Val d'Isère; Roland Steiger (00 33 50 54 43 53) in Chamonix or Hans Solmsen (00 41 26 31 70 83) in Verbier.

Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) has the best off-piste

guides and the best intro programmes I've experienced. Mountain Reality (00 41 44 67 770) has the most ambitious range of ski safaris, skiing from hotel to hotel across Italy and Switzerland. Loyal fans of guide John Hogg, now back in Canada, should note that

Mountain Reality now handles all Hogg's safari routes. Both The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) and Collineige (01276 242662) have holidays where local guides accompany skiers on a weekly basis.

DOUG SAGER

## Great white holiday deals

THERE is still time to get a good discount on your skiing holiday if you book now before the school half-term rush in mid-February.

Some of the best deals are in the big resorts in France and Switzerland. At the time of going to press the following deals are on offer: Mark Warner (0171-393 3131) has a week in its chalet hotel in Verbier for £299, £216 off the brochure price. Bladon Lines (0181-780 8800) quoted £299 for a week in Tignes, a discount of £170. Snowtime (0171-433 3336) had space in its chalet hotel in Méribel for £299, less than half the brochure price. Chalet holidays typically include flights and coach transfers, breakfasts, afternoon tea, dinner and ski guiding.

For rock-bottom prices try Crystal (0181-399 5144), which quoted self-catering apartments at £199 per person, including flight and transfers, and catered chalet holidays at £259 in France. That's as long you don't mind where you go: guaranteeing the resort of your choice costs an extra £40. Upmarket, Ski Scott Dunn



Big resorts in France and Switzerland offer good deals

(0181-767 0202) quoted £300 (down from £565) for a luxury chalet in Zermatt, including tea or coffee in bed, canapés before dinner, champagne and a picnic on the slopes. Simply Ski (0181-742 2541) is offering the luxury Chalet Norjeanne in Verbier at £389, almost half price. If time is limited, Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) could do a weekend at Hotel Hirschen in Grindelwald half board for £449, from

February 1-4, travelling Swissair with minibus transfers.

Italy and North America have been selling well, so bargains there are few and far between. If you haven't got time to call around, a specialist ski travel agency such as Ski Solutions (0171-902 9900) can do the legwork.

MARITA VAN OLDENBORGH

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## GAMES

## CHESS

by Raymond Keene

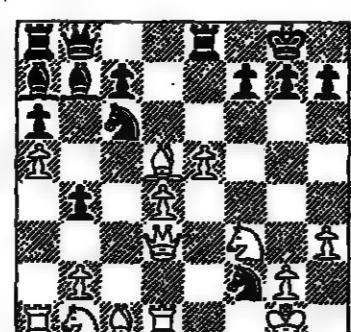
I AM often asked what is the best way to improve once the elementary stage has been passed in chess. One of the best methods is to pick a hero and study that player's games in some depth — or even write an article or book about that person! The Soviet expert Alexander Kotov freely admitted that his study of Alekhine, leading to a two-volume work on his hero's games, had been instrumental in transforming him from a first-category player into a grandmaster. Similarly, Harry Golombek, *The Times* chess correspondent from 1945 to 1985, honed his skills by a deep study of both Capablanca and Reti. Again in Golombek's case this ultimately led to chess biographies of both players, with deep comments on their outstanding masterpieces. In my own case, in 1973, I conducted an in-depth study of the games of Aron Nimzowitsch, and I secured my first grandmaster result the following year.

If you are an attacking player, choose Alekhine, Kasparov or Tal to emulate. If more strategically inclined, go for Botvinnik, Capablanca or Petrosian. Choosing a living player, such as Karpov (a noted strategist) brings the advantage of a stream of fresh games to inspire you.

The American master Eric Schiller has recently started to follow the games of that great attacker Rudolf Spielmann, and the effect on his style and strength has been extraordinary. Here is a sample, played under the influence of Spielmann:

W: E Schiller; B: M Arne  
Foster City, 1995  
Ray Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6 4 d4 Bb7 5 Nc3 Bb5 6 Bb5 Nf6 7 Nf3 Nc6 8 O-O O-O 9 d4



The idea is that if White captures the knight on d4 allows captures at e5 with counterplay. For example 18 Kd2 Nx5 19 Nx5 Bxd5 20 Bc5 c5, when Black is a piece down but White's position is unstable. Instead, White launches a sacrificial attack, one virtually impervious to precise analysis, quite in the style of Spielmann himself.

18 Bxf7+ Kd7 19 Qf5+ Kd8 20 Nf5+ Kd7 21 Qd7+ Kd8 22 Qd8+ Kd7 23 Qxg7+ Kc8

White now closes the mating net with a problem-like move: 30 Ng5+ Ke3 31 Kd2.

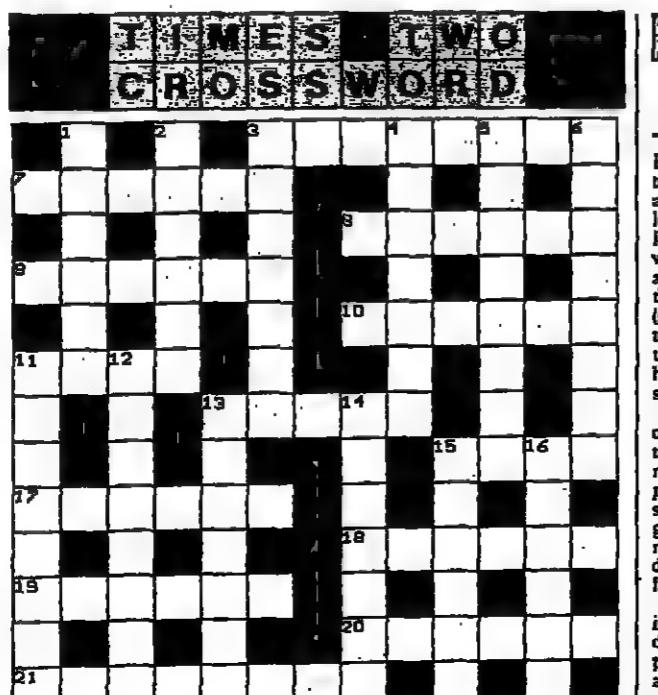
Black resigns.

A quiet king move ends the spectacular combination.

By Raymond Keene  
This position is from the game Heinicke - Wustenhofer, Germany 1926. Black is threatening to launch a counter-attack against the white king with rook check on the back rank. Nevertheless, it is White to move and he made the most of this. Can you see how? White to move.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qf6



No 689

## ACROSS

- 3 Fighting ship; frigate bird (3-2)
- 7 Look for food (6)
- 8 Trickily escapes (6)
- 9 Merchant of Venice heroine (6)
- 10 Italian unification leader (6)
- 11 Indecent (4)
- 13 Snoring and derogatory (5)
- 15 Little biting insect (4)
- 17 Seasoned stew (6)
- 18 Protective end of shoe (6)
- 19 Antonin - New World symphonist (6)
- 20 Eat daintily (6)
- 21 Old hilltop track (8)
- 3 Fighting ship; frigate bird (3-2)
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- 17 Seasoned stew (6)
- 18 Protective end of shoe (6)
- 19 Antonin - New World symphonist (6)
- 20 Eat daintily (6)
- 21 Old hilltop track (8)

**SOLUTION TO NO 688**  
ACROSS: 1 Tobago 4 RSVP 9 Chime 10 Utrillo 11 Titania 12 Cones 13 Aphrodite; 17 Aural 19 Respect 22 Capsule 23 Drier 24 Ludo 25 Jekyll  
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## PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The caption will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (93), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN.

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 31.



The advent of Dial-A-Pizza is greeted with some scepticism  
(above) was submitted by Frank Waters of London

The winning caption for last week's cartoon

Answers on page 19

## BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS was the second question of the Christmas quiz. You are the declarer in Six Diamonds.

♦Q7  
♦8752  
♦KJ8  
♦K983  
  
N  
W E  
S  
  
♦AKJS  
♦6  
♦AQ1094  
♦AJ5

West leads the ace and king of hearts. How do you play after ruffing the second heart?

The main line, as the chess players call it, is an example of a dummy-reversal. That is a technique in which the declarer takes ruffs in the long trump hand and draws trumps in the short hand.

What South aims to do here is to use dummy's three entries (a diamond and the two black honours) to ruff two more hearts in his hand, and then draw trumps with dummy's K8 of diamonds. That way he will make three heart ruffs in hand, three diamonds in dummy, four tricks in spades and two club tricks. The precaution he must take is to play ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king at tricks three and four — if someone shows out on the second diamond, the dummy reversal is no longer available. I awarded eight points for getting this far.

How to continue when the trumps are 4-1 depends on who shows out. If it is West, declarer simply draws the rest of the trumps

and plays a club to the king and finesse the jack on the way back. Two points for getting this right.

If East has the singleton trump, South can try the effect of playing four rounds of spades before drawing the last trump. If West has four spades along with four trumps this will enable South to throw two clubs from dummy, and then take a club ruff. And if West ruffs the third or fourth spade, declarer overruffs and reverts to playing East for the queen of clubs. Although this line would fail if West has a singleton in either black suit, I think it is better than taking the club finesse. Five points for the imaginative approach.

This is the East-West lay-out on which it would succeed:

♦10884 N ♦832  
W ♠AK S ♠8  
♦7653 ♠E ♠QJ10943  
S ♠Q107 ♠642

Question 3 was on quotations: five marks for each correct one. All the quotes were from colourful characters and great players, now dead. The player who instructed his protege that "there's only one player in this partnership who can lead trump, and it ain't you kid" was Lew Marhe. Rixi Marcus famously used to advise his partners in individual tournaments: "No signals, I will know your distribution better than you do." Giorgio Belladonna said "Grazie" when Garozzo (still with us of course) put down the dummy, forgetting the code that he was required to say "thank you" if the bidding sequence had gone off without a hitch.

is on heavy rock, the jazz styles of the funky blues tunes are infinitely more comfortable. One of many nice touches, if during your early performances you play badly you may end up at a sleazy lounge knocking out easy listening tunes with a resident house band. It's as near as the action gets to the Mike Flowers Pops, which is a pity.

Another music title from BMG is *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, an interactive introduction to music for children. Set in 19th-century Vienna, in rooms immediately beneath eccentric composer host Ludwig van, users explore aspects of music including tone, rhythm, pitch, expression and composition. You can create your own compositions and paint musical pictures.

Children are taught how to read music and encouraged to keep journals. These can include written notes, artwork and music. As you might expect, the musical backdrop to the CD-Rom includes selections from Beethoven's 6th and 9th Symphonies and the Moonlight and Pathétique Sonatas.

"All music is folk music, I ain't never heard no horse sing a song." Louis Armstrong (1971).

## COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Viennese whirl classical music for children

along to a choice of three songs, each with a visual guide.

If you get the hang of strumming mostly in the right places, the right notes and chord changes can be heard and your career will take off with lightning speed. Next you practise in a garage with your band and then the slimy old agent arrives with news of your first gig at a rundown roadside bar. If you play well and the gig goes well you progress up the ladder towards the ultimate goal — to play alongside the members of Aerosmith at a sell-out concert.

The sound of *Quest For Fame* is impressive, and the lively animation sequences are detailed and effective. This is a social game, to be played when possible in the company of others. It isn't one for playing late at night if you have neighbours up to a mile away as simply listening on headphones is no substitute for real din. Besides, even using the Virtual Pick can get remarkably loud.

Though the emphasis of the title

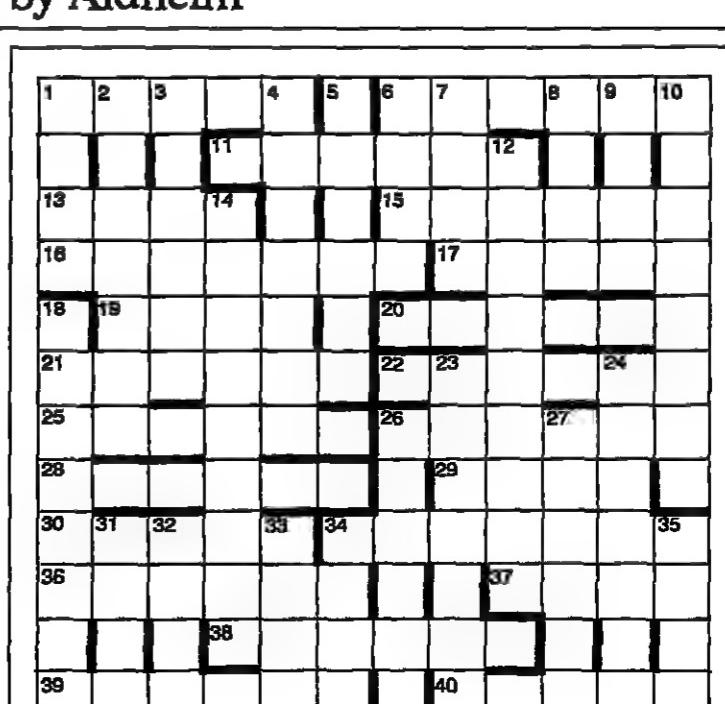
## THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3342: 2, 10, 8, 4, 0, 0, 12, 5, 13 by Aldhelm

15 America's bumper state (8 v C)  
16 Cocktail with hint of lime on the surface (?)  
17 Conclude degree's free from error (?)  
18 Arrive behind sporting venue (A v D)  
20 Team C (6)  
21 Author's mark of distinction lampooning leader of America (6)  
22 Harmless black motor reversed without starting (6)  
23 Dangerous drug's possibly gone to the head (6)  
25 Put on a coat initially for spring day (6)  
28 Team D (6)  
32 Hick: wild hit at this could get the captain out (C v A)  
34 Huge specimen's getting skinned (5)  
34 Ducks on pool almost take one fish (5)  
36 Finance chief half-heartedly set minds at rest when apprehended by trustee (D v C)  
37 Drink a small amount for starters (4)  
38 Ward of excellent period of history (6)  
39 Cell without a nucleus yet without content is shrouded in secret message (6)  
40 Pot with penny staked (5)

Down

- 1 Run won with extreme pain (A v C)
- 2 Make an arraignment in case disturbed wife is seen (7)
- 3 Adjusted nut on one end of fiddle put out of pitch (6)
- 4 Fraudster's turned out OK on the outside (7)
- 5 Team B (6)
- 6 Stone spangle of old's lacking colour practically (4)
- 7 Vital element in TV coverage? (4)
- 8 Sell used odd bits for a large amount (4)
- 9 In some places he has smaller device to fix (D v B)
- 10 Without it, sacred death overcomes accepted beliefs (5)
- 12 Celebration can include little brother (4)
- 13 Special changes advanced to delete verse (9)
- 18 Orderly embrace for alien's supercilious (6)
- 23 Plough large enclosed part of field soon (7)
- 24 Yarn apparently is covered in embarrassment (7)
- 25 Team A (6)
- 27 Master's carry with college's sixth form (6)
- 31 Conservative insiders upon group of weis (B v D)
- 32 Principals of teaching establishments should try to be examiners (4)
- 33 Chopping tails of three blind mice can distress (4)
- 34 Fish previously moving top to bottom, almost (4)
- 35 Not taking diverted road for jen (C v B)



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3342**

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3342, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 8.

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## Solution to No 3339: Endangered Species by Machiavelli

Thematic Lights were:  
Across  
1 Glum (6)  
2 Fruitless used (6)  
3 Dark skin pigment (7)  
4 Get round: get rid of (7)  
5 Extensive (spaces); undecided (context) (4,4)  
6 Place limits on (6)  
11 A dog: part of Canada (8)  
12 Josiah —, potter (8)  
13 Meat/bread/seasoning in a tube (7)  
14 Fate (7)  
15 Passes: takes as authority (4,2)  
16 Suitable for crops (6)

Down  
1 PI(GNU)T  
2 BRIE(FLY)  
3 ADVENTURE)  
4 LAC (QUEY)  
5 MARSH  
6 (TEC)MINA  
7 STER(NAGE)  
8 (A'DIL)  
9 COM(BAT)ING  
10 (ZODIAC)  
11 RE(VEAL)ED  
12 MALAR(KY)  
13 PICA(DORS)  
14 KAYAK  
15 (PIGEON)  
16 (WELKIN)

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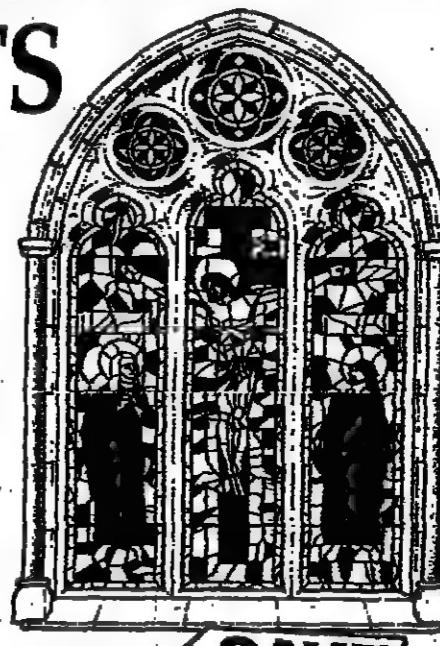
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The restored beast that is going for a beauty of a price

Page 3



Century of the signs that paint the road to hell

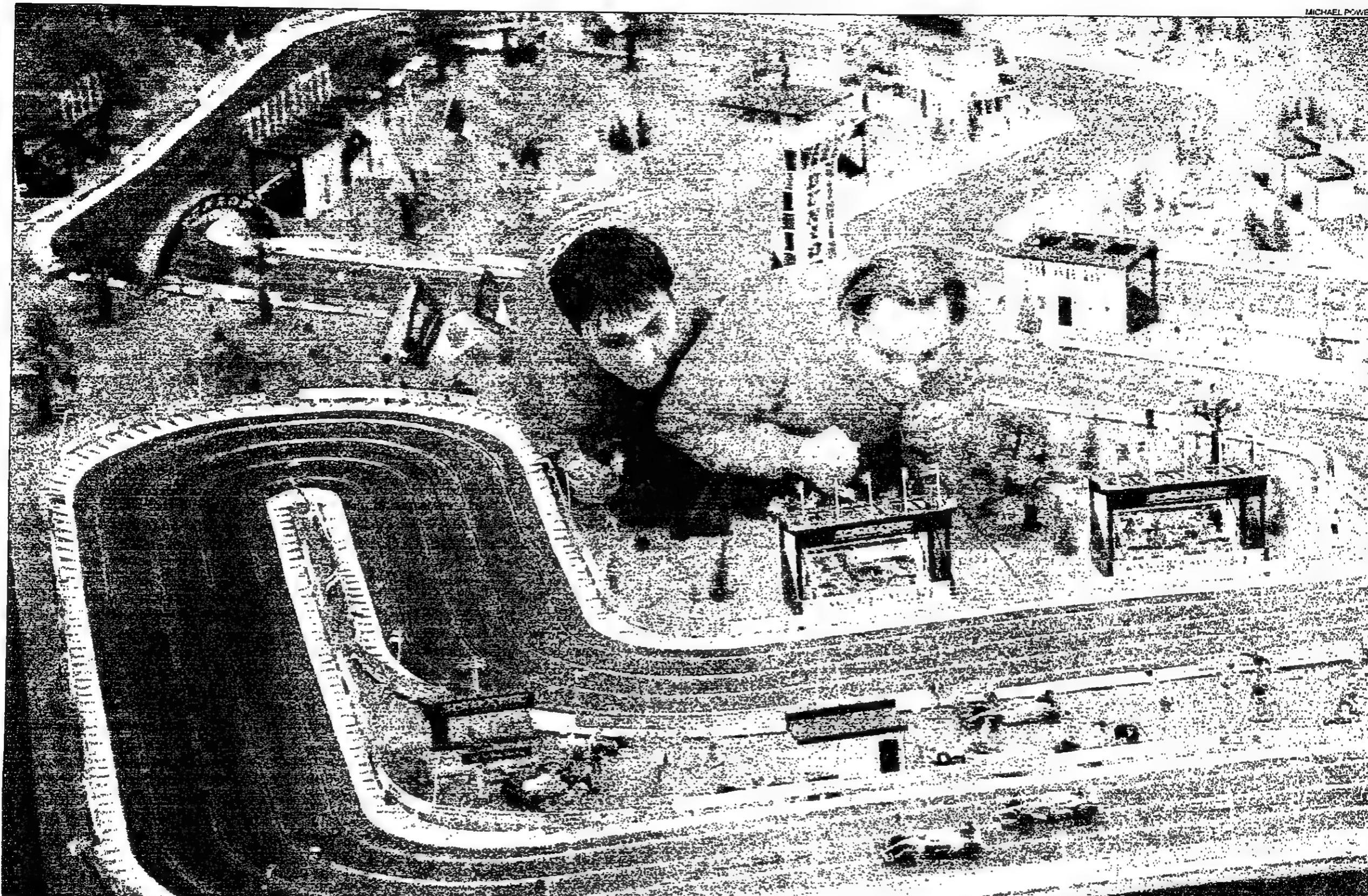
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oring

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

MICHAEL POWELL



Small is fascinating: Graham Stevens, left, and Paul Smith on four-lane super circuit at Scalextric's Margate headquarters, complete with pits, grandstands, bridges, and loudspeakers playing the screaming engine whine of F1 cars

## A different scale of motoring delights

**J**unior is barely out of nappies when the feverish search through the toy shop starts. The buggy is neatly parked against a stack of shelves with row-on-row of boxes decorated with chequered flags and screaming Formula One cars while the investigation is carried out.

At this stage, it is difficult to spot the child. Actually, Junior is the one who cannot even say "car", let alone operate one, while the real child is the taller one rifling through the boxes. Never mind early learning toys and pop-up books, what Junior really needs apparently is a Scalextric... yet he barely gets to lay his dumpy little fist on the controls in case he breaks anything.

I confess: I was that man. My son was still learning to walk when his first Scalextric appeared under the Christmas tree, and he had to beat me off for the privilege of unwrapping it. Then he stood by while it was constructed and took it all in his stride when Dad punched the air after thrashing him in a ten-lap sprint. There are boxes of track and cars, from Ford Escort rally cars to Formula One machines, in our garage just waiting for a new circuit to be constructed by an eager father with delusions of being team manager for Renault Williams at Silverstone.

**B**efore their infant sons can even say the word, fathers dash out to buy them their first cars.

**K**evin Eason on the enduring joys of Scalextric

But there is no need to send for medical help, for I am not alone. Scalextric is the ultimate toy for boys who never grew up. There cannot be a male under the age of 45 in this country who at some time has not owned one, and even the mention of one of the world's most famous brand names turns eyes misty and leads to confessions that somehow that set bought years ago was never thrown away.

Even the countenance of Mike Powell, a hardened professional who took these pictures for *Car 96*, took on a faraway look as he reflected on his Grand Prix Scalextric set, featuring his favourite Jaguar XJ220, that roars around his London flat.

Simon Kohler, marketing manager at Hornby Hobbies which makes Scalextric, listened patiently to the wistful reminiscences of Messrs Powell and Eason and their victories on the small scale track without the least surprise. At the Toy Fair this weekend at London's Olympia, he will meet

Williams around the familiar rubberised track for glory, and — for the very best — a place in a world final in Trinidad.

Not exactly one of the better known grand prix venues, you might think, but there is a reason for choosing the Caribbean island, apart from the sun and sand. Trinidad is the home of the greatest concentration of Scalextric enthusiasts in the world, where the small scale racing is second only to cricket as a sporting pursuit. Trinidadian children were introduced to the table-top track in much the same way as table tennis was the amusement for a generation in youth clubs here — except that in Britain, we outgrew capuccinos, Cliff Richard and paddle bats, while in Trinidad Scalextric stuck, creating an island of addicts.

The addiction started in the days when the cars racing along the electrified steel grooves were copies of F1 machines like Cooper, Ferrari and Lotus and the heroic drivers were Jim Clark, Graham Hill and Mike Hawthorn.

We all have a Mr B. Francis to thank

for our addiction. He started a company in 1952 called Minimodels, making

Continued overleaf

### LIKE THE REAL THING, IT'S DONE WITH COMPUTERS



Jamie Buchanan, designer for lounge motor racing

THE eerie computer shape was a Vauxhall Calibra twisting and turning through a full circle to show each curve and detail of its aerodynamic body.

But when this car leaves the electronic drawing board, it will be small enough to fit inside a jacket pocket. Although Scalextric cars are toys, they are designed with the same attention to detail as the real thing.

In scale, they race around the track at speeds equivalent to 200mph, tear through corners and chicanes and stop on a sixpence. They also have to cope with stresses and strains that real cars do not — such as when Junior loses control and his car tumbles off the track and the dining room table, plumping to the floor.

Until recently, the process

was traditional model-making, with drawings translated to patterns, then to clay or wooden moulds before moulds could be made for plastic prototypes, the factory toolled up and the cars produced, 18 months from concept to completion.

Now Scalextric designs on computer software used by manufacturers of full-size cars, completing the design process in a month. Jamie Buchanan is one of the designers who "draws" cars on computer screen, examining their contours and areas that Scalextric has to strengthen against the rigours of lounge racing.

Scalextric cars tend to sit higher than road cars to deal with banked corners, have wider wheel arches and thicker bumpers to withstand those prangs against the dining table legs.

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SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

## CAR 56



Make your bids: the Coys' sale underlines the number of huge bargains among classic cars since the bottom dropped out of the market during the recession. Many are available for the cost of a Ford Mondeo or Vauxhall Cavalier

# A saleroom with lots to dream about

**O**nce in a while a sale comes along which verges on philanthropy. The owner of an Aston Martin DB4 lavished £90,000 on a two-year restoration only to put it on sale next week, apparently willing to take a huge loss.

The unnamed businessman probably bought the gorgeous DB4 for £40,000 before embarking on the renovation — by Aston Martin Lagonda at the company's factory in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire — yet is willing to take £45,000 at auction. That must make the 34-year-old DB4 one of the bargains of the year, no matter what happens for the next 11 months.

For the sale underlines the number of huge bargains available among classic cars since the bottom dropped out of the market during the recession. There are cars of magnificent quality, styling and history, yet many are available for the cost of a Ford Mondeo or Vauxhall Cavalier.

Instead of turning the key in a humble runabout with all the charisma of a pint of brown ale, the canny buyer with few miles to do and an eye for something special could be firing up all 12 cylinders of a Ferrari or going for a spin in a Jensen with a silly V8 beating under a bonnet about as long as a football pitch.

There are cars of quality, styling and history

£6,000, but for a sporty chap like me with aspirations towards being the new Terry Thomas, an outstanding bargain is a 1960 MGA 1600 worth between £8,000 and £10,000 but which could still outshine anything on the road for style even 35 years after it left the MG factory at Abingdon in Oxfordshire.

They are cars to dream about, even if they are not best in breed. The Pininfarina-styled Ferrari 400 never captured the imagination of enthusiasts because, as a four-seater, it seemed contrary to Ferrari's sporting traditions. But who could resist that 4.5-litre V12 and that long, sumptuous bodywork? For £10,000, you would have to dash to swap that sort of luxury for the anonymity of a modern saloon.

So if the fickle finger of the天神 comes along which verges on philanthropy. The owner of an Aston Martin DB4 lavished £90,000 on a two-year restoration only to put it on sale next week, apparently willing to take a huge loss.

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And there is a 1975 Jensen Interceptor, up for between £7,000 and £10,000, a 1969 Mercedes 280S 4 worth £12,500 on a good day, and a Volvo P1800E — the same model driven by television's Roger Moore as *The Saint* — which should attract bids between £3,500 and £5,000. A 1968 Jaguar XJ6, the 19th off the line from Coventry, might raise only £4,000 to £5,000.

There is a magnificent marten from a tobacco barn stopped the race starting in France, takes cars, vans, trucks and motorcyclists through Malaga and across the Mediterranean to the inhospitable terrain of North Morocco, Mauritania, Mali and Guinea. Only half of the 400 participants usually complete the 6,500-mile, 16-day race, described by a previous driver as "unremitting hell".

After friends warned him "not to get lost like Mark Thatcher", who circled the Sahara for six days during the 1982 race, Nick spent the last 12 months getting biker fit and "punishing my arms and legs". He took part in dozens of endurance rallies, bought a new Honda XR600 specially prepared to cope with the desert and geared up to travel at least 16 hours a day. He also bought himself a GPS global positioning system, considered essential for the motorcyclists who travel alone. All but one night of the race, said to be most treacherous for those on bikes, was trouble-free.

"The lighting on the bike went, and I ran out of engine oil. I spent the night buried in a hole on top of a sand dune so I wouldn't get run over," he says. His support van solved the problem the following morning. Of 145 bikes Nick came in 41st overall and 9th in his class. "It was the most fantastic feeling. I have completed the ultimate off-road race and loved every minute," Nick says. One big question remains for a man who has spent 21 years on the back of a bike: "What do I do now?"

A CROP sprayer from Stockton-on-Tees became the first English motorcyclist in 18 years to complete the world's most dangerous motor rally.

Nick Morgan, a 37-year-old agricultural contractor, who rode his first moped at the age of ten, described passing the finish line in Senegal on January 14 as "the pinnacle of a lifetime of off-road racing".

The route of the formerly named Paris-Dakar Rally, now the Granada Dakar since a tobacco advertising ban stopped the race starting in France, takes cars, vans, trucks and motorcyclists through Malaga and across the Mediterranean to the inhospitable terrain of North Morocco, Mauritania, Mali and Guinea. Only half of the 400 participants usually complete the 6,500-mile, 16-day race, described by a previous driver as "unremitting hell".

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## On your bike for an English first across North Africa

after acting as a mechanic to a British team in Land Rover during the 1995 rally. "Three years ago the idea of taking part in that race just seemed like a dream. But I learnt a lot as a mechanic," he says. "What the terrain was like, how long the days were, the funny food and the unsanitary conditions."

After friends warned him "not to get lost like Mark Thatcher", who circled the Sahara for six days during the 1982 race, Nick spent the last 12 months getting biker fit and "punishing my arms and legs". He took part in dozens of endurance rallies, bought a new Honda XR600 specially prepared to cope with the desert and geared up to travel at least 16 hours a day. He also bought himself a GPS global positioning system, considered essential for the motorcyclists who travel alone. All but one night of the race, said to be most treacherous for those on bikes, was trouble-free.

"The lighting on the bike went, and I ran out of engine oil. I spent the night buried in a hole on top of a sand dune so I wouldn't get run over," he says. His support van solved the problem the following morning. Of 145 bikes Nick came in 41st overall and 9th in his class. "It was the most fantastic feeling. I have completed the ultimate off-road race and loved every minute," Nick says. One big question remains for a man who has spent 21 years on the back of a bike: "What do I do now?"

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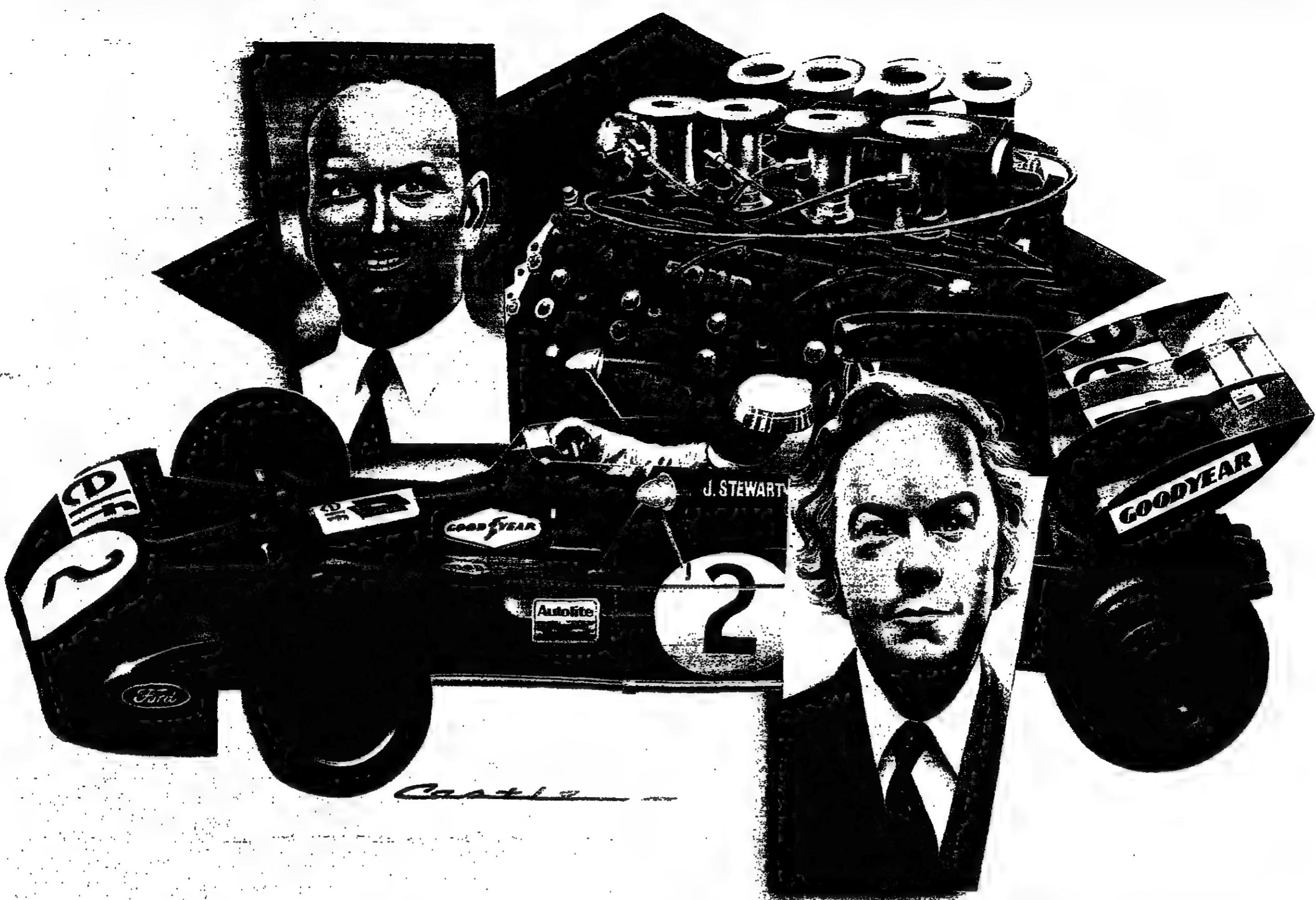
A CROP sprayer from



SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

YEAR 96

5

**Lord Montagu of Beaulieu salutes the achievements of Keith Duckworth, whose British-made was best**

Power brokers: Mike Costin, left, and Keith Duckworth with their record-breaking DFV engine, which powered Jackie Stewart to the World Drivers' and Constructors' Championship in 1971. Illustration by Philip Castle

**C**osworth Engineering of Northampton build racing engines, including the most successful design in grand prix racing history. Between 1967 and 1985 their DFV, or DFY series of 3-litre V8s won no fewer than 151 World Championship qualifying 'grands prix' and powered a dozen Drivers' World Championship winners.

The company was founded in 1958 by two young engineers, Mike Costin and Keith Duckworth. The name combination does not reflect the manner in which Duckworth would play the primary role, but the alternative — Duckin' Engineering — was hardly acceptable.

David Keith Duckworth, born in Lancashire in 1933, was educated at Giggleswick School in Yorkshire and Imperial College, London. Graham Robson, in his definitive history of Cosworth Engineering, *The Search for Power*, summed him up as "engineering design genius, workaholic, frustrated helicopter pilot, successful businessman, multi-talented, super-confident, deep-thinking, forthright, stubborn, often combative, dismissive of fools, gregarious in company but dangerous in argument". In 1952, after National Service

## Engineered to perfection

with the RAF, he went to Imperial College. He became interested in motor sport and ordered a Lotus Six kit car from Colin Chapman's embryo company. Due to illness, what should have been a three-year university course occupied four, but he built and briefly raced the Lotus Six and met Mike Costin, the de Havilland Aircraft engineer who then became Chapman's technical director at Lotus.

Graduation triggered a job hunt. Rolls-Royce's interviewers spotted the 24-year-old's "unsuitability to work as part of a team". He fancied the extraordinary engine projects being tackled by Napier, but then he heard that Graham Hill was leaving his Lotus job to try his luck as a professional racing driver. When Chapman offered a post as Lotus's gearbox development engineer, the graduate accepted.

"The Lotus Querbox" has passed into history as a frail and unreliable device. Lotus parsimony prevented Duckworth making it reliable, and

after ten months he was ready to leave. He and Costin recognised their complementary talents; both were interested in "messing about with racing cars and engines". They discussed a joint venture, but Chapman tied Costin to Lotus on a three-year contract which Mike could not refuse.

So Keith went out on his own with Costin initially as a part-time partner — Cosworth Engineering Ltd, being incorporated on September 30 1958. He worked at first in Shafesbury Mews, Kensington, but a move quickly followed to Friern Barnet, North London. Duckworth having bought a second-hand engine test bed which he installed without benefit of planning permission.

A new class of single-seater racing — Formula Junior — gained international recognition in 1959. It demanded production-based engines of no more than 1100cc with limited modification. Through a friend, Duckworth heard of Ford's

forthcoming new 105E engine for the Anglia, which sounded ideal for Junior racing. His prototype Cosworth-Ford FJ unit then made its race debut on Boxing Day, 1959, and at Easter Monday Goodwood 1960, it won its first race, in a new Lotus 18 driven by a young Scot called Jim Clark.

Formula Junior success piled upon success, and the 105E-based Cosworth-Ford engines proved to be the class of the field. Ford of Dagenham approved... intensely. Larger premises ex-Lotus were found in Edmonton. Duckworth's attention to gas-flow and camshaft profiles perfected the new Lotus-Ford Twin-Cam 4-cylinder engine which made the Lotus-Cortina saloon a race and rally winner.

Upon completion of his Lotus contract, Costin joined in full-time. Two new 1-litre racing classes were due for 1964 — Formula Two permitting heavily modified produc-

tions-based engines and Formula Three allowing only minor tuning. Duckworth took the successful Ford 105E bottom end and created a new cylinder head to form the Cosworth SCA — Single-Cam Series A — F2 engine.

By 1964, a greenfield site was acquired in Northampton which Cosworth Engineering still occupies. New racing Formulae demanded new power units, and Duckworth and his specialist team provided them. When Formula One grew from 1-litre to three litres from 1966, Chapman asked Duckworth if he felt capable of creating a new F1 engine. The answer was characteristically positive, and Chapman secured funding from Ford. A new 1600cc Formula Two class was launched in 1967, for which, with Ford backing, Duckworth developed his Four-Valve Series A Cosworth FVA twin-cam engine. The 3-litre Formula One Cosworth-Ford engine followed on for Lotus as the

Double-Four-Valve or DFV V8. In the 1967 Dutch Grand Prix, Clark won in his Cosworth DFV-powered Lotus 49.

As Cosworth Engineering's activities diversified, so its engineering, design and development staff had to grow — selected, vetted, directed and "kept honest" by Duckworth's strict rectitude. A driving principle was that borrowing money is inherently immoral. "Duckworth's became engineering lone. 'It is better to be uninformed than ill-informed... A genius can make, for a penny, what a good engineer can only make for 10p... Development is only necessary to rectify the ignorance of designers... It's better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and prove it.'

Divisions included a never-raced prototype four-wheel drive Formula One car in 1969 and a 750cc twin-cylinder motorcycle engine for Norton in the 1970s. Then General Motors came to Cosworth, commis-

sioning specialist performance engine work for Chevrolet, Vauxhall and Opel, followed by Mercedes-Benz and other giants. The Chevrolet Cosworth Vega, Ford Escort RS1600, 1700 and 1800, the Sierra RS Cosworth range and 16-valve Mercedes-Benz 190s all emerged with Cosworth technology.

Such immense success was not without cost. Duckworth had suffered a heart attack in 1973 and towards the 1980s he worried for his company's future. He could not contemplate it falling into unsuitable hands should death duties force his family to sell, so he looked for a suitable buyer. He found United Engineering Industries, who took over Cosworth Engineering in 1990.

His first marriage ended in divorce and his heart condition worsened, requiring bypass surgery. In 1988, he retired from the chairmanship of Cosworth Engineering, remarried and remains today the most respected surviving engineer of the British class of the 1960s and 1970s. His genius and "straight-as-a-gunbarrel" example took motor sport by the scruff of the neck. "British is Best" had too often been an empty boast; Duckworth gave it genuine substance.

MARTIN BEDDOE

old bangers already on the road with mismatched parts," laughed Stuart. "It looks like a glamorous ringer."

He has a point; in a few years' time, when it has lost its originality and the N-reg plate is looking dated, the Harlequin may well resemble a car that someone knocked together from a heap of scrapped Polos.

Ann concedes it is "the only car I've ever seen that looks colourful on a miserable January day". And Ian admits that he had "never looked at a Polo for so long. It's a great marketing gimmick. People just can't take their eyes off it."

Natalia Fraser is definitely not interested in the gaudy little hatchback, but, of course, most teenagers insist on everything being black. So, who is going to buy a car like this? Well it was hard, but I found a Harlequin fan, and once I'd identified her, I found dozens like her. My mum wants one. My best friend's mum wants one, my neighbour's mum

Helen Mound on a Harlequin that makes people laugh

## Red and yellow and pink and green...

**B**e prepared to be the butt of a thousand jokes when you drive around in Volkswagen's new Polo Harlequin — so named because its body panels are like the classic multi-coloured costume of Columbine's clown lover.

"Put a few dents in your new car then?" smirked the man behind me in the cash-point queue. "You know you can get replacement panels in matching colours." Brave Harlequin drivers will have to grin and bear it.

It seems everyone is affected somehow by the brightly coloured supermini. Schoolkids laugh at it, traffic stops for it,

lots, and put their hands over their eyes expressing either dazzlement or disgust. Everyone either loves or loathes this car.

But Volkswagen claims there is no shortage of admirers for the Harlequin; it was customer demand that secured its launch. When the new Polo was introduced last year in Germany, the company built a special model with all the different colours that customers could have, a kind of three-dimensional colour-Swatch. Almost immediately, German motorists began ordering the car in multi-colours, so Volkswagen launched the Harlequin, in

a quick survey of friends and colleagues revealed that I



Shades of attraction: Germans — who normally favour dull colours for their cars — fell in love with the Harlequin



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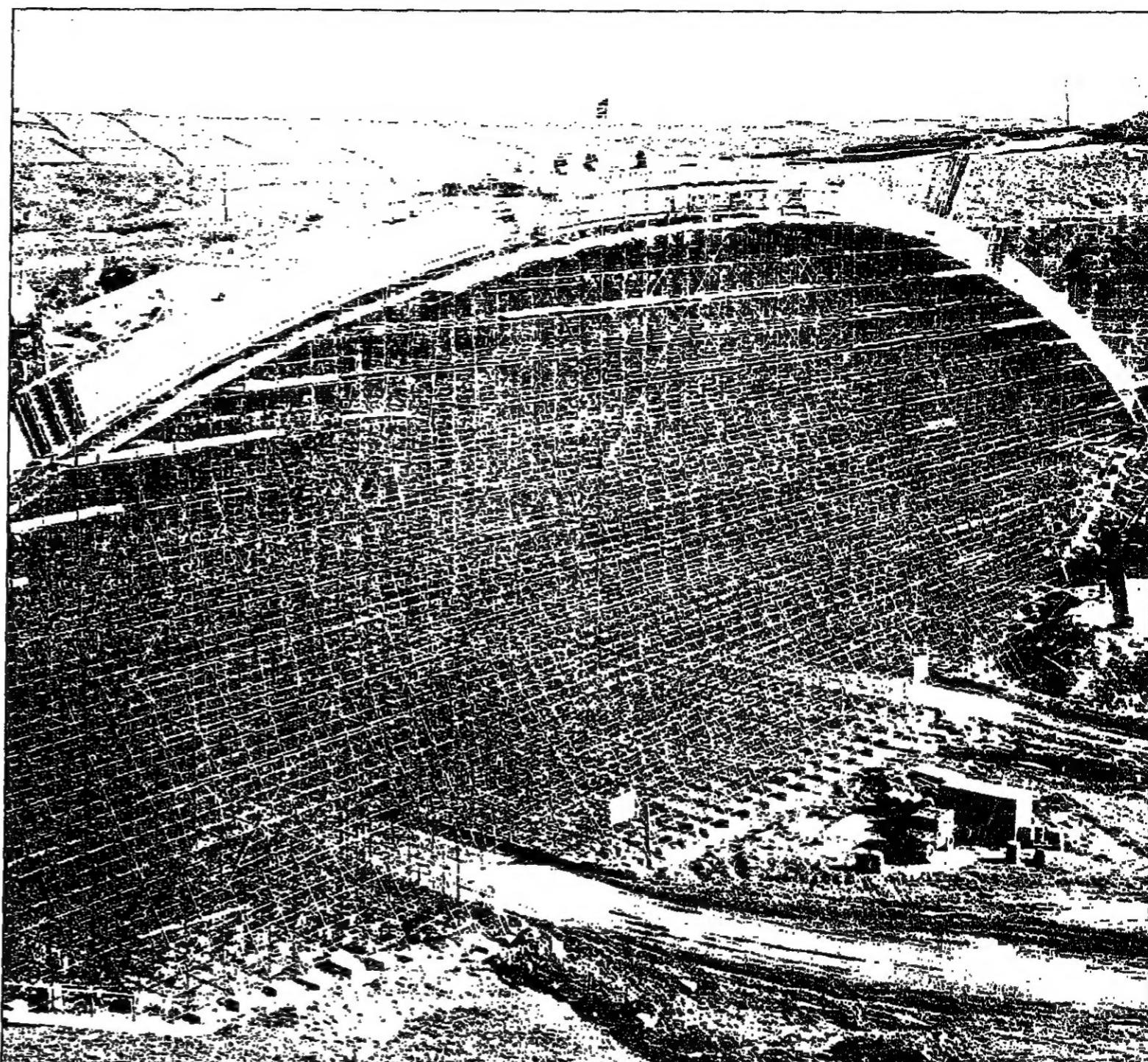
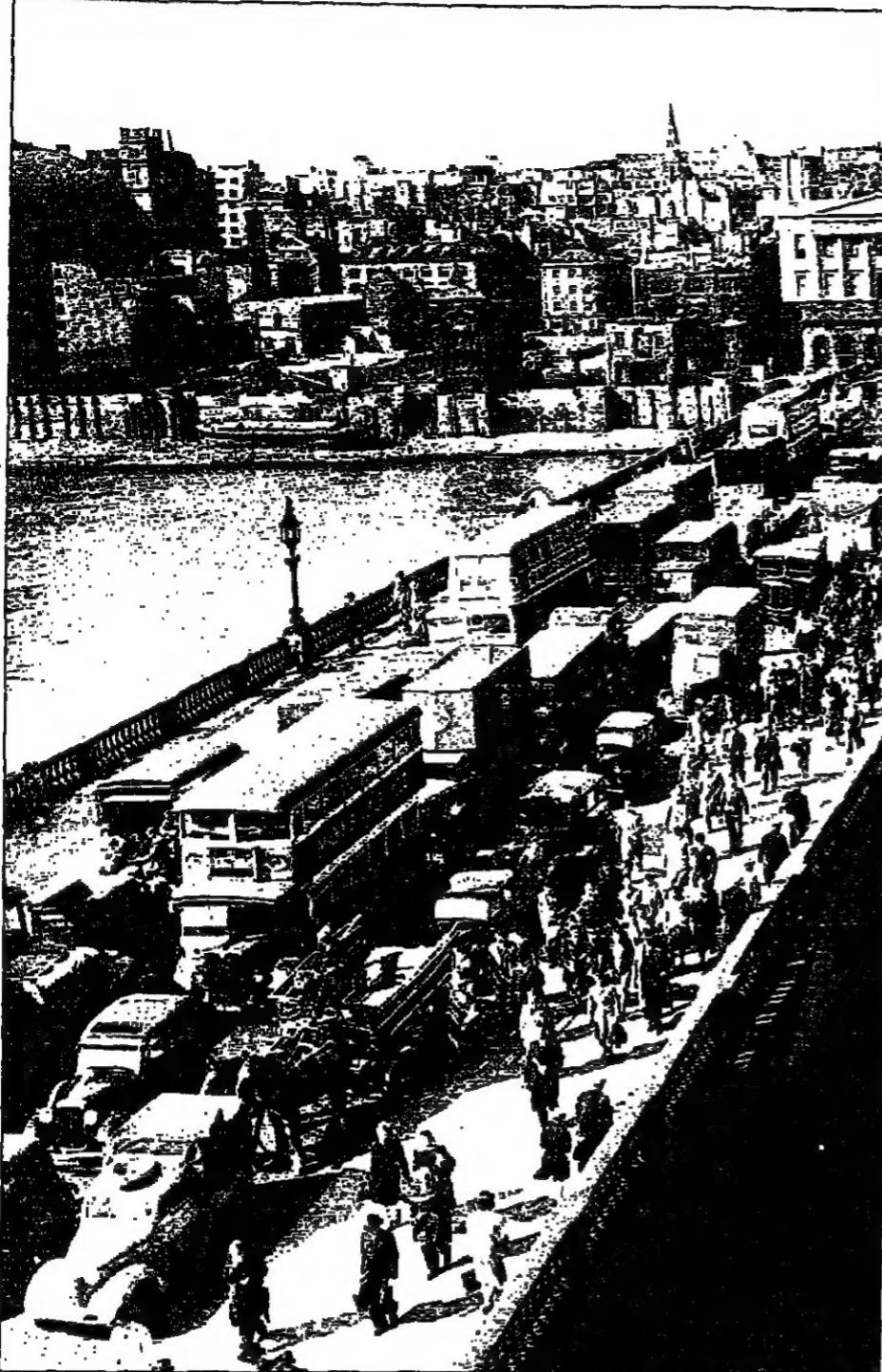
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11



Vaughan Freeman looks back over a century during which the revolution of the internal combustion engine has totally altered the face of Britain

## New landscape, a portrait in motor oil



From walking pace to high-speed motoring: London Bridge clogged with traffic in 1947 and the gigantic steel scaffolding "harp" that supported the concrete span to carry to A6025 from Halifax to Oldham across the M62 under construction in 1969

In 100 years, the car turned a nation of erratically planned and poorly maintained tracks into one throughout which binmen, road signs and street lighting are the everyday backdrop to our lives.

The demand of the motorist for roads wide enough for unimpeded progress, capable of handling ever faster cars and for surfaces friendly to easily punctured tyres has dictated probably the greatest change in our road network since the Romans.

Roads improved vastly in the early 1800s with the advent of the mail coach and the work of engineers such as John Metcalf, Thomas Telford and John McAdam, but conditions deteriorated again later in the century as people and freight switched to the railways and roads were ignored. That changed again when, in November 1896, the Locomotives on Highways Act was repealed and the speed limit raised from 4mph to 12mph and again to 20mph under the 1903 Motor Car Act. The 20mph limit remained in force until 1930 but was widely ignored.

Even at 20mph, cars created a major environmental problem — dust. Great plumes were thrown up as cars raced and bumped over what were little more than exaggerated cart tracks. As city fathers peered through the gloom and pedestrians

coughed their way to the shops, authorities decided something must be done and called for water sprays to damp down the dust; there was even a suggestion to pipe seawater from Brighton to London to spray the capital's streets.

A more sensible idea was at hand though: tar. Used experimentally in the 1850s, thousands of miles of Britain was soon covered in the stuff. Roads sealed with tar were smoother, lacked mud and tyre-splitting stones and enabled cars to go faster.

Binumen, a product of refined crude oil, increasingly took over from tar during the 1920s.

As speeds increased so too did the need for signs warning of dangers ahead. Ad-hoc early signs, many set up by the Cyclist Touring Club, included boards showing the skull and crossbones on the steepest hills and blindest corners.

Uniformity began with the 1903 Motor Car Act, which made provision for local authorities to put up warning signs for crossroads, steep hills and dangerous corners. A hollow red triangle indicated a warning, and a solid red disc a prohibition, the basis of today's signs.

The first speed limit signs, for 10mph, featured a hollow white ring above a plate giving the limit in figures.

Slowing cars down was one thing, stopping them another. Traffic lights

appeared around 30 years before the car when, in 1868, the first set was installed to help MPs cross Bridge Street to and from the Houses of Parliament. The red and green lights were lit by gas and changed by hand by a policeman, but exploded soon after they went into operation. Traffic lights were reborn in their familiar green, amber and red form in 1918 in Piccadilly, though still manually operated by police, and, in 1927, the first automatic traffic lights lit up

from 1947 and the beacons started flashing in 1954. The white zig-zag markings either side of a pedestrian crossing were introduced from 1971.

The dreaded yellow no-parking lines first appeared in 1956 in Slough, which sprouted a single yellow no-parking line and double yellow no-loading lines. The first parking meters also arrived in the late 1950s to decorate town and city centres.

**A**lthough motorways were proposed in 1906, and the first opened in New York in 1914, Britain's first, the M1, was not opened until November 1959. Ernest Marples, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation. When it was built there were 8.5 million vehicles in Britain: now there are closer to 25 million.

The first motorways were without a speed limit or signs thanks to the touchingly naive faith that traffic would suffer no hold-ups or delays. A number of accidents in the mid-1960s in fog, with high speeds a contributing factor, changed that view. Message boards were set up and in 1967 the 70mph limit was made permanent on unrestricted roads.

If safety was the key to road design in the 1960s, it became an even more crucial shaping element in the way our roads were built through the

1980s and 1990s. The first road-hump legislation was introduced in 1983. The Gaiso speed camera in 1992, and traffic calming measures such as chicanes and gateways on urban roads in 1993.

Yet some things remain the same. A hundred years ago this month, Walter Arnold of East Peckham, Kent, became the first motorist to be convicted of speeding when he was caught driving at 8mph in a 2mph area. The same year saw the first in a sad tide of road deaths when Bridget Driscoll of Croydon was run over and killed by Arthur Edsel's Roger-Benz at Crystal Palace. It is thought that Mrs Driscoll froze, panic-stricken, at the strange sight of the car as it bore down on her at 4mph.

In 1900, A.J. Balfour MP took delivery of a De Dion Voiturette and, impressed, told the Commons he "looked forward to new methods of travelling" and believed that "great highways for motor traffic might be constructed".

The highways arrived, but whether they represent progress can be measured by the fact that, although the speed limit was raised to 30mph in 1903, 20mph zones were reintroduced in 1991 to cut urban accidents and deaths, especially among children, while the 1986 limit of 12mph is about the average speed for a vehicle travelling in London in 1996.

### DR DASHBOARD

## On the trail to Gunfight at the OK Corral

**Q** This morning an impatient young woman tore down the outside lane at the lights then turned left across the traffic while the lights were on red. I followed her, flashing my lights and blowing my horn, but she refused to take any notice. People like that should be taken off the road, shouldn't they?

**A** Put down that pen of vitriol and go look in the mirror. Your blood pressure has probably gone ballistic because you have worked yourself into a state. What is the point?

**Q** What's the point? Behaviour like that is disgraceful and should be stamped on. Why condone that?

**A** I don't. But two wrongs don't make a right. She was wrong — and more than likely knows it — but chasing her down the road like some inner-city imitation of Wolf and the Road Runner is not the way to solve the problem. What if she had stopped?

**Q** I would have remonstrated with her most severely and told her to clean up her road manners in no uncertain terms.

**A** So you would have stamped your feet and shouted and stabbed her in the chest with your index finger. Ever heard of road rage?

**Q** Don't patronise me. I was angry for a good reason. I do not lose my temper on the road the way other selfish and uncouth people do.

**A** Actually, you are a textbook case we doctors would refer to when warning patients about the dangers of road rage, which threatens to take over from flu as this year's epidemic.

**A** Is that so? According to the Lex Report on Motoring this week, there were 1.8 million incidents when drivers were forced to pull over during last year and 800,000 instances of motorists being threatened. Half a million had their cars driven into and 250,000 were attacked by another driver.

**Q** Gosh. I had no idea things were that bad? But what I did has no bearing on statistics which relate to people swapping punches and hitting each other's cars.

**A** Doesn't it? The fact that you reacted so angrily makes you a leading contender for a bill on the hooter. One driver does something stupid and the other decides to exact revenge, tempers rise and before you know it, you are a leading player in a rerun of the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

**Q** But you have to be angry with drivers like that stupid woman. It is only natural, isn't it?

**A** Maybe, but you have to curb your temper. If the rest of Britain wants to have a heart attack at the wheel, tell yourself that is fine so long as you are not involved. Besides, the driver you take on might turn out to be a 6ft 6ins, 18-stone rugby player ... and broken bones really hurt. I know, I am a doctor.

**Q** But I can't help losing my temper. What can I do when I see things that are blatantly wrong?

**A** Seems obvious, but just relax. Tell yourself nothing matters that much. If you are cut up or someone "tailgates" the back of your car, take some deep breaths, swallow your masculine pride and get out

## A paintbrush that keeps people alive

Simple white chevrons save £1.6m and slash accident rates on the M1

**A** pot of white paint has helped to cut death and injury accidents by more than half on two of the busiest stretches of the M1, writes Vaughan Freeman.

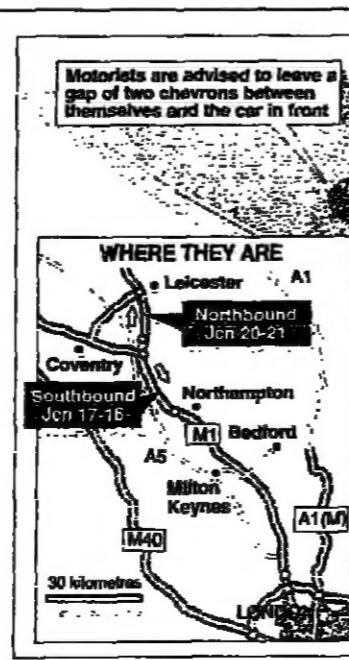
In probably the most cost-effective safety initiative ever, the Highways Agency simply painted hundreds of white chevron shapes, familiar to anyone who has motored the autoroutes of France, at 40-metre intervals on two sections of the motorway, one where it passes through Northamptonshire and the other passing through Leicestershire.

The inverted V-shaped chevrons were introduced in 1993, painted on the nearside and centre lanes of motorway, and

have not only eased traffic congestion and speeded traffic flow but, more significantly, have reduced multi-vehicle and rear-end collisions by more than 50 per cent.

The researchers also found, much to their surprise, that the incidence of single-vehicle accidents, in which a car or truck left the road to hit the central reservation or cross the hard shoulder as the driver fell asleep or lost concentration, also dropped. The theory here is that the chevron-counting driver, busily ensuring he or she is advised two chevrons apart, has something to keep the brain busy and so stays more alert.

A TRL research document,



Motorists are advised to leave a gap of two chevrons between themselves and the car in front.

An unexpected effect is the reduction of single-vehicle accidents. These include drivers falling asleep at the wheel and leaving the road or hitting the central reservation.

Inverted V-shaped chevrons are painted 40 metres apart on the nearside and middle lanes.

GRAPHIC JOHN LAWSON

KEEP APART  
2 Chevrons

### ACCIDENTS PER YEAR

	Before chevrons	After chevrons
Multiple vehicles	29	15
Single-vehicle	15	8

### STOPPING DISTANCES

73 metres at 60mph  
96 metres at 70mph

Even after the chevrons have petered out, the reduction in accidents continues for about 11 miles after the last one painted on the road surface. The TRL calculates that in the Northamptonshire stretch of the M1, 30 accidents have been prevented, at a saving to the emergency services and ultimately to the taxpayer, of £1.6 million, not to mention the life-savers on thousands of miles of motorway around the rest of the country, but the authorities are wary about simply slapping paint on roads without knowing the full effects of the trials.

The worry is that part of the effectiveness of the chevrons is due to the fact that they are an unfamiliar

A Highways Agency spokesman says: "Results have so far been very positive and, certainly initially, the indications are that it has been highly successful in reducing accidents. Certainly we want to look at introducing it on other parts of the network."

"We would not, however, want to put them everywhere as there is the danger that

## Touring champions put John on the fast track to fame

If John Bintcliffe feels pains between his shoulder blades at night, it's probably because most of Britain's racing drivers are sticking pins into effigies of him.

For this impish 29-year-old has grabbed one of the most coveted seats of the 1996 season: a factory drive with Audi, the world touring car champions, in this year's British Touring Car Championship. His team-mate will be the German world champion Prunk Biela.

Bintcliffe, however, remains un-daunted by his high-octane leap from obscurity: "I'm just waiting to get on with doing the driving. The impact won't hit me until I pull out of the pit road at Donington Park for qualifying."

That will happen on the weekend of April 8, when the touring car circus starts its 13-round, 26-race championship at the Derbyshire circuit. Bintcliffe's abilities will then come under the scrutiny of up to 90,000 spectators and three million BBC *Grandstand* viewers.

Bintcliffe has endured poverty to achieve success. A panel beater's earnings couldn't fund the traditional racing driver's apprenticeship of karting and tuition at racing schools; he was 25 before he had saved enough to get on a starting grid, in a Honda CRX coupe at Silverstone in 1992.

"I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't walk round the circuit before practice, and all I knew of the corners was their shape on the map. I did some stupid do-or-die manoeuvre and spun off. I just wanted to win from the word go."

For 1993 Bintcliffe pulled together £22,000 to fund a car for the national Renault Clio championship. "I rolled the car trying to set the fastest time in the first official test session of the year," he says.

## Honda Shuttle competition

YOU CAN BE the proud owner of a fabulous new Honda Shuttle, the ultimate people carrier, thanks to an exclusive competition in *The Times*. This is the last token, a bonus, for your chance to enter our free prize draw.

All you have to do is post three different tokens with the official entry form which was published in *Car 96* on January 13 and 20 to: *The Times/Honda Shuttle Prize Draw*, 134-146 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3AR.

Closing date for this competition is next Friday, February 2, 1996.



**BONUS TOKEN**

### Mike Nicks on a big break



Bintcliffe "I'll just get on with the driving"

He got the Audi job after meeting Richard Lloyd, a former touring car champion and Audi's team coordinator, at an endurance race at Snetterton.

Bintcliffe's new job will not be easy. Audi are unique in the BTCC in using four-wheel-drive against front-wheel-drive opposition from Vauxhall, Renault, Ford, Volvo, Honda and Peugeot, and BMW's rear-drive cars. Audi's A4 will therefore have to lug a 65kg weight penalty.

But Bintcliffe points out: "A quick front-wheel-drive car is the hardest thing to drive. All the power, braking and steering inputs are going through the same axle. It makes the cars tend to spin. Four-wheel-drive should let you get away with a lot more."

**Alan Copps finds Chrysler Jeep's latest model in the four-wheel-drive market a serious Range Rover rival**

**A** long with Barrows and green wellies, the big four-wheel-drive has entered our national mythology. Loved by middle-class children to whom it offers a grandstand seat on the school run, the mothers who drive them for that purpose are demonised by commuters everywhere.

If your object is to get from home to office by car in the minimum of time exploiting every centimetre of road space, then the back end of a Range Rover, Frontier, Shogun or Jeep Cherokee might as well be the back end of an articulated lorry: it's difficult to see past and frequently impossible to squeeze past.

Then there are the constant jibes aimed at those younger trendies who buy "fun" off-roaders and never venture away from a tarmac surface just in case they get them dirty. It is estimated that only 30 per cent of 4WD vehicles sold ever get to travel off the road, but still the market in Britain grew by more than 11 per cent last year.

**T**hat makes Richard Mackay a happy man. He is managing director of Chrysler Jeep in the UK, whose Cherokee in various guises has been one of the main beneficiaries from the growth in the market.

"Think how happy other makers would be if the market overall grew by that amount. In fact, it grew by just 1.8 per cent," he says.

Since resuming sales in Britain three years ago, Chrysler Jeep has sold nearly 15,000 Cherokees, twice the number it predicted, and this week it launched the Austrian-built, 4-litre, all-singing, all-dancing (literally) Grand Cherokee.

Bigger, better equipped and better-looking than the smaller Cherokees, with automatic transmission as standard at a price of £28,995, it presents a head-on challenge to the enduring Range Rover.

"We see the Grand Cherokee as a luxury car which happens to have four-wheel-drive," says Mackay, pointing to figures that show that the most popular part exchanges against its smaller cousins have been upmarket saloons such as Mercedes, BMW and Volvo. Climb up into the leather seats and look at the dashboard oozing with electrical equipment and it's not difficult to see the logic in that view.

But Mackay also points out that growth in the market is patchy. "It favours the makers with a four-wheel-drive heritage," he says, clearly placing Jeep at the head of that list, but declining to identify others. Land Rover and Mitsubishi with the strong-selling Shogun must be the most obvious entrants.



When the going gets tough...as Jeep's off-road expert, Barry Stallard's roller coaster includes spectacular descents on loose rocks

The Jeep team was only too anxious to demonstrate how well this luxury car would perform over the rough. If you want to see a Grand Cherokee dance, the man to consult is Barry Stallard, Jeep's off-road expert, whose job consists of devising ever more fiendish things for these vehicles to do. On the fringe of Snowdonia, 1,000ft up, he had marked out a 45-minute off-road course which included a series of spectacular descents on loose

rocks, an underwater roundabout and a flat-out dash up what was probably the steepest slope I have ever climbed in a vehicle.

But the centrepiece of this exercise was something called Stallard's roller coaster, a short rise with bumps, rather like moguls on a ski slope, placed asymmetrically so that every time one wheel rose the other on the same side dropped, frequently twisting at the same time and admirably demonstrating

the virtues of Jeep's Quadra-trac four-wheel-drive system and gas-filled dampers. Watching the car in front climb this slope, the word "dancing" seems appropriate. The climb ends in a pinnacle from which the car virtually stands on its nose as it plunges into a muddy pond and exits just as steeply.

The Grand Cherokee performed all this with great aplomb. But that is the contradiction built into these off-road limousines I can't really

see many owners shelling out £30,000 and then cheerfully listening to the grunch of rocks hitting the sump guard, loose stones flying against the paintwork and watching glutinous mud cling to the door sills ready to smear their clothes.

If you do this sort of thing in earnest, you are probably not too worried about having the leather seats with eight-way power adjustment and two-position memory or the six-speaker stereo system or the automatic air conditioning.

**C**ontrols, incidentally, will flick from centigrade to Fahrenheit at the touch of a button, but if you use centigrade the trip recorder and everything else ticks into kilometres, a feature which I predict will provide some interesting generational conflict if you use this as a family car.

The level of standard equipment is so high that there are only two items on the options list: a sunroof and a CD changer. If you enjoy the high driving position of an off-roader, then on the motorway or on the passes of Snowdonia this is a limousine that will transport you in luxury, at speed and with bags of luggage space. Despite the height, it was relatively unaffected by crosswinds and my only niggle would be the positioning of the pedals, the brake being a long way back relative to the throttle.

But if in a few years' time you are tempted to buy a used Grand Cherokee, make sure it was never on the Press fleet. Remember Stallard's roller-coaster.



### GRAND CHEROKEE

Body style: 5-door, 5-seat off-roader.  
Engine: six-cylinder, four-litre giving 175bhp at 4600rpm.

Transmission: 4-speed auto with high and low ratios and permanent Quadra-Trac 4WD.

Performance: Max speed, 112mph; 0-60mph in 9.9seconds.  
Economy: Urban, 13mpg;  
Extra urban, 23.5mpg; combined 18.2mpg.

Equipment: Electrically operated seats (with position memory), windows and mirrors. Air conditioning, cruise control, trip computer, six-speaker stereo. Anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, dual airbags, remote central locking and alarm/immobiliser.  
Price: £26,995.  
Insurance: Group 16.



The dashboard oozes equipment and steep hills are no problem

**(mazda) > (the rest)**

Good news  
0345 48 48 18

Bad news  
0345 48 48 19

Don't go  
Get the latest news about the new upgraded  
Mazda 323

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